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# Intramolecular mobility of $\eta^5$ -ligands in chiral zirconocene complexes and the enantioselectivity of alkene functionalization by organoaluminum compounds†

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The effect of solvent nature ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $d_8$ -toluene,  $d_8$ -THF) on the conformational behavior of neomenthyl-substituted zirconocenes  $\text{CpInd}^*\text{ZrCl}_2$  ( $\text{Cp} = \eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5$ ,  $\text{Ind}^* = \eta^5\text{-neomenthylindenyl}$ ),  $\text{CpCp}'\text{-ZrCl}_2$  ( $\text{Cp} = \eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5$ ,  $\text{Cp}' = \eta^5\text{-neomenthyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroindenyl}$ ), and  $\text{Ind}^*_2\text{ZrCl}_2$  ( $\text{Ind}^* = \eta^5\text{-neomenthylindenyl}$ ) was shown by means of dynamic NMR spectroscopy, and the constants and thermodynamic parameters of conformer exchange were determined. The experimental conformational composition of the complexes was compared with structures obtained by quantum chemical modeling using the DFT methods PBE/3 $\zeta$  and M06-2X/cc-pVDZ(H, C, Cl)/cc-pVDZ-PP(Zr), which predicted three rotamers in the case of both  $\text{CpInd}^*\text{ZrCl}_2$  and  $\text{CpCp}'\text{ZrCl}_2$ , and seven rotational isomers for  $\text{Ind}^*_2\text{ZrCl}_2$ , three of these being  $\text{C}_2$ -symmetric and the others being asymmetric. The enantioselectivity of the conformationally mobile complex  $\text{Ind}^*_2\text{ZrCl}_2$  in the reactions of terminal alkenes with  $\text{AlR}_3$  ( $\text{R} = \text{Me, Et}$ ) was compared with that of rigid *ansa*-complexes, *rac-p-S*, *p-S*-[ $\text{Y}(\eta^5\text{-C}_9\text{H}_{10})_2$ ] $\text{ZrX}_2$  ( $\text{Y} = \text{SiMe}_2$ ,  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$ ;  $\text{X} = \text{S-binaphtholate}$ ). Faster exchange between the conformers of  $\text{Ind}^*_2\text{ZrCl}_2$  in a chlorinated solvent gives the structural isomer of catalytically active sites, which affords higher substrate conversion and reaction enantioselectivity. Binding of the ligands to *ansa*-zirconocenes prevents the rotational isomerism of the complexes, providing the same configuration of the  $\beta$ -stereogenic center in the methyl- and ethylaluminum products (unlike the conformationally mobile complex  $\text{Ind}^*_2\text{ZrCl}_2$ ) with an enantiomeric purity of 50–65%.

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## Introduction

The synthesis of chiral transition metal  $\eta^5$ -complexes is a vigorously developing field of chemistry. The interest in these compounds is first of all due to their possible use as stereoselective catalysts for the construction of C–H, C–C, and metal–C bonds. Among these, chiral Ti and Zr complexes played a crucial role in the development of catalytic methods for the synthesis of stereoregular oligo- and polymers<sup>1</sup> and for enantioselective functionalization of alkenes with organo-magnesium and -aluminum compounds.<sup>2</sup>

Investigations on the Group IV metallocenes as catalysts for alkene polymerization prompted the idea about the possible

contribution of the conformational mobility of  $\eta^5$ -ligands at a metal atom to the activity and stereoselectivity of the catalytic systems.<sup>3</sup> In these studies, it was demonstrated that the stereoselectivity of zirconocenes  $(\text{R}^*\text{Ind})_2\text{ZrCl}_2$  containing substituted indenyl ligands ( $\text{R}^* = \text{neomenthyl, neoisomenthyl, menthyl, isomenthyl}$ ) in propene polymerization is correlated with their structural features, namely, the relative configuration of the stereogenic centers in the  $\eta^5$ -ligand, which finally determines the conformational composition of complexes.<sup>3a,d</sup> It was found that the more homogeneous conformational composition provides higher polypropylene isotacticity.

Carbometalation of alkenes, which can be conceived as the first step of Ziegler–Natta polymerization, is a substantive efficient method for alkene functionalization. The applicability of enantiomerically pure zirconium catalysts for asymmetric carbometalation of alkenes with  $\text{AlR}_3$  was first demonstrated in ref. 4. Thus, the reaction of 1-octene with  $\text{AlMe}_3$  in the presence of bis(1-neomenthylindenyl)zirconium dichloride (**3**), bis(1-neoisomenthylindenyl)zirconium dichloride, or bis(1-neoisomenthyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroindenyl)zirconium dichloride

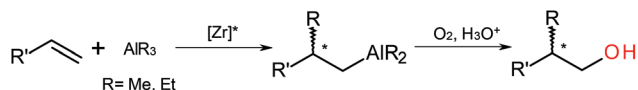
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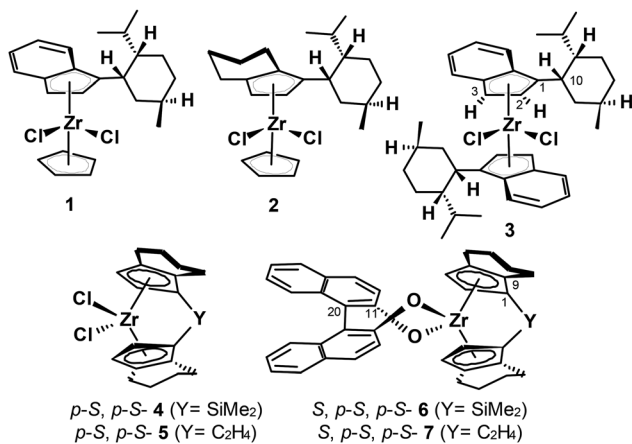


Scheme 1

afforded 2-methyl-1-octanol with an enantioselectivity of 65–85%*ee* (*S*), 50%*ee* (*S*), and 6%*ee* (*S*), respectively (Scheme 1).<sup>4a</sup> The rigid *ansa*-zirconocenes, (*R,R*)-ethylene-bis-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1-indenyl)zirconium dichloride or (*R,R*)-ethylene-bis-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1-indenyl)zirconium – (*R*)-1',1''-bi-2-naphtholate, showed low enantioselectivity at a level of 8%*ee* (*R*) and 6%*ee* (*R*), correspondingly.

The study of the enantioselectivity of olefin carboalumination with AlMe<sub>3</sub> in the presence of *p-S*, *p-S*-enantiomers of *ansa*-zirconocenes containing ethanediyl or dimethylsilylene bridges showed that the use of allylbenzene as the substrate results, after oxidation of the reaction mixture, in 2-methyl-3-phenyl-1-propanol with an enantiomeric excess of 25–33%*ee*, which scarcely depends on the catalyst structure.<sup>5</sup> In this study, the highest enantioselectivity (about 80%*ee*) was achieved in styrene methylalumination, catalyzed by the [Ph<sub>3</sub>C][B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>4</sub>]-activated *p-S*, *p-S*-ethylene-bis-(1-indenyl)zirconium dichloride.

Investigation of the reaction of terminal alkenes with AlR<sub>3</sub> (R = Me, Et) catalyzed by enantiomerically pure Zr complexes, (cyclopentadienyl)(1-neomenthylindenyl)zirconium dichloride (**1**), (cyclopentadienyl)(1-neomenthyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroindenyl)zirconium dichloride (**2**), and bis-(1-neomenthylindenyl)zirconium dichloride (**3**), demonstrated<sup>6</sup> that the chemo- and enantioselectivity of these reactions are substantially affected by the catalyst and alkene structures, OAC nature, and reaction conditions (temperature, reactant ratio, solvent). Presumably, the key factor determining the dependence of enantioselectivity on the solvent nature and OAC structure is the conformational behavior of the η<sup>5</sup>-ligands in bimetallic Zr,Al-intermediates, which control the reaction pathways.



Scheme 2

Thus, in order to elucidate the influence of the intramolecular dynamics of ligands in zirconocene complexes on the activity and stereoselectivity of the catalyst systems in the reactions of OAC with alkenes, we studied the conformational composition of complexes **1–3** depending on the solvent nature by dynamic NMR spectroscopy (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, toluene, THF). The structures of the possible conformers of the complexes were simulated by DFT calculations. The obtained results were compared with the catalytic activity and enantioselectivity of *ansa*-zirconocenes **4–7** with a fixed geometry (Scheme 2) in carbo- and cycloalumination of terminal alkenes.

## Results and discussion

### Conformational analysis of complexes **1–3**

The conformations of CpInd\*ZrCl<sub>2</sub> (**1**) were investigated by low-temperature NMR spectroscopy in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and d<sub>8</sub>-toluene. In both solvents, lowering the temperature led to broadening of the Cp and indenyl H<sup>2</sup> and H<sup>3</sup> signals in the downfield region of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex **1** (Fig. 1). In dichloromethane at 175 K, structures with discrete signals of Cp ligands could be observed.

In order to elucidate the structures of the possible conformers of complex **1**, we carried out a quantum chemical study using the DFT methods PBE/3ζ<sup>7,8</sup> and M06-2X/cc-pVDZ(H, C, Cl)/cc-pVDZ-PP(Zr),<sup>9–12</sup> which demonstrated their applicability to the description of the Zr-containing systems. Analysis of the potential energy surface for the molecule revealed three key rotation isomers **1A**, **1B**, and **1C** (Fig. 2, Table 1). According to the calculations using PBE/3ζ, rotamer **1B** predominates, whereas the populations of **1C** and **1A** are considerably lower. The population ratio for rotamers **1B** and **1C** is 10 : 1. Calculations in M06-2X showed the prevalence of **1B** and **1C** with a ratio 6 : 4.

The observed differences between the Cp chemical shifts for the conformers of complex **1** (Fig. 1a, 175 K) can be attributed to the changes in dihedral angles between the η<sup>5</sup>-ligand planes (α) in the rotamers (Fig. 2). According to our calculations, this difference can be as large as 16°. The smallest α angles among the conformers were found for the most populated **1B** and **1C**.

A similar investigation of complex CpCp'ZrCl<sub>2</sub> (**2**) in the same solvents demonstrated the splitting of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR signals of characteristic protons at C<sup>2</sup> and C<sup>3</sup> carbon atoms of the substituted tetrahydroindenyl ligand at temperatures below 220 K (Fig. 3). In toluene, the conformers differed also by the Cp-ring chemical shifts (Fig. 3b, 197–210 K). In dichloromethane at 197 K, the spectrum exhibited two proton signals at δ<sub>H</sub> 6.83 and 6.18 ppm and proton signals at δ<sub>H</sub> 5.59 and 5.67 ppm in 88 : 12 ratio (Fig. 3). This type of splitting was found in both toluene and THF, the ratio of the conformers remaining at the same level (Table 2). In all cases, the difference between the chemical shifts of the H<sup>2</sup> and H<sup>3</sup> protons was greater for the major conformer than for the minor one.



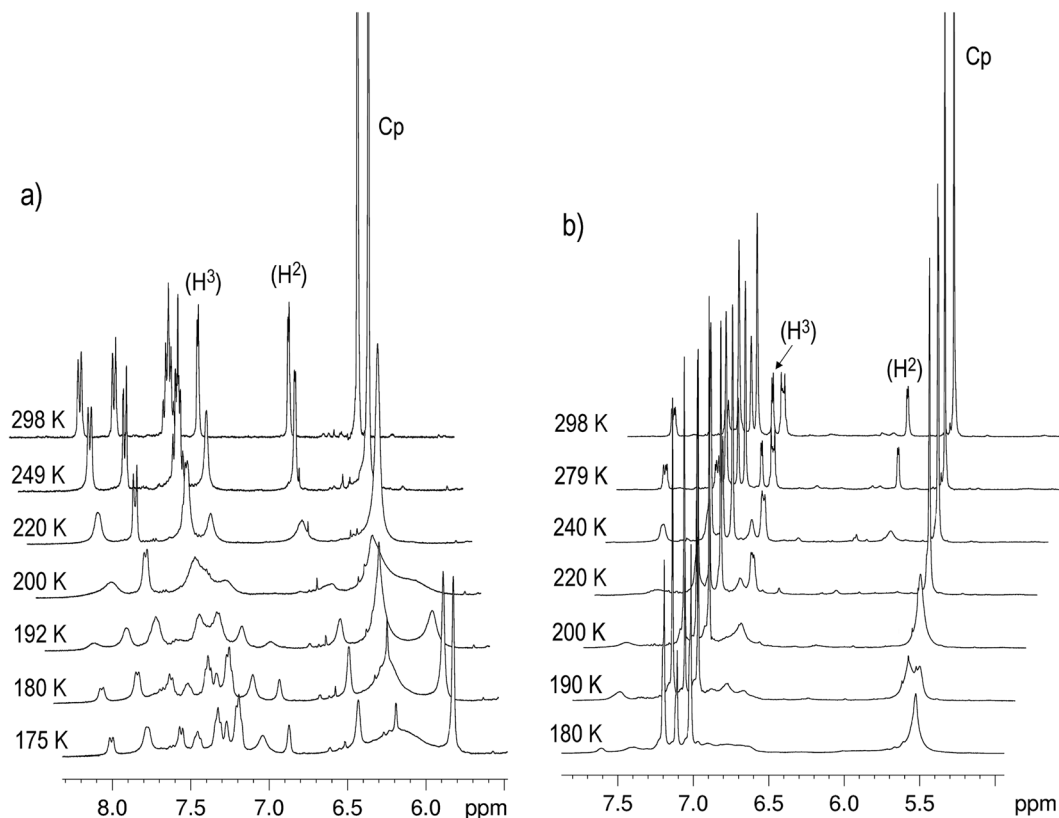


Fig. 1 Variable temperature  $^1\text{H}$  NMR study of complex **1** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (a) and  $d_8$ -toluene (b).

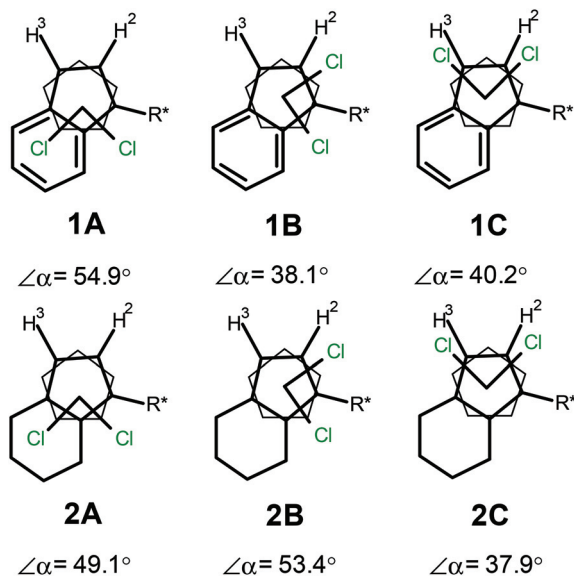


Fig. 2 Structure and dihedral angle  $\alpha$  for conformers **1A–C** and **2A–C**.

For this complex, the rate constants for the rotamer interconversion were calculated, and activation parameters were derived from the Eyring equation ( $\ln(k/T)$  vs.  $1/T$  plot, Fig. S8†): in dichloromethane,  $k_{190} = 12.5 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta G_{190}^\ddagger = 10.24 \pm$

$0.06 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta H^\ddagger = 7.47 \pm 0.52 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ , and  $\Delta S^\ddagger = -14.89 \pm 10.76 \text{ cal (mol K)}^{-1}$ ; in toluene,  $k_{195} = 3.1 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta G_{195}^\ddagger = 11.08 \pm 0.02 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta H^\ddagger = 7.20 \pm 0.24 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ , and  $\Delta S^\ddagger = -19.85 \pm 4.90 \text{ cal (mol K)}^{-1}$ ; in THF,  $k_{195} = 5.1 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta G_{195}^\ddagger = 10.88 \pm 0.05 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta H^\ddagger = 7.89 \pm 0.67 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta S^\ddagger = -15.57 \pm 13.67 \text{ cal (mol K)}^{-1}$ .

The exchange rate between the conformers of complex **2** increases in the series toluene < THF < dichloromethane, which is attributable to the decrease in the Gibbs activation energy due to solvation effects.

The quantum chemical study on the structure of the possible conformers of complex **2** revealed the same rotamers as in complex **1** (Fig. 2, Table 1). PES scanning for complex **2** using both calculation methods showed rotamer **2A** to predominate ( $\sim 99\%$  population). Particularly this form participates in the crystallization of the complex.<sup>13a</sup> Compared with conformer **2A**, populations of conformers **2B** and **2C** were much lower (Table 1).

Evaluation of the solvation effect on the conformer distribution of complexes **1** and **2** within the conductor-like polarizable continuum model (CPCM)<sup>14</sup> exhibited an increase of the relative content of minor conformer **1A** up to  $\sim 2\%$  in the case of more polar solvents – THF and dichloromethane (Table S1†), and substantial growth of the conformer **2B** fraction up to  $\sim 14\%$  as well. It should be noted that theoretical populations of complex **2** rotamers practically do not depend



**Table 1** Calculated relative Gibbs energies, populations and NMR shifts of the conformers of complexes **1–3** at 180 K

Complex	Conformer	$\Delta G_{180}^\circ$ , kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>	$P_{180}$ , %	$\delta$ ( <sup>1</sup> H), ppm		
				H <sup>2</sup>	H <sup>3</sup>	$\Delta\delta_{(H^2-H^3)}$
PBE/3 $\zeta$						
<b>1</b>	<b>1A</b>	1.51	0.5			
	<b>1B</b>	0.00	90.0			
	<b>1C</b>	0.64	9.5			
<b>2</b>	<b>2A</b>	0.00	98.9			
	<b>2B</b>	1.29	1.1			
	<b>2C</b>	2.53	0.0			
<b>3</b>	<b>3A</b>	2.58	0.0			
	<b>3B</b>	0.00	100.0			
	<b>3C</b>	4.47	0.0			
	<b>3D</b>	6.87	0.0			
	<b>3E</b>	3.40	0.0			
	<b>3F</b>	12.58	0.0			
	<b>3G</b>	12.86	0.0			
M06-2X						
<b>1</b>	<b>1A</b>	1.99	0.0	7.05	6.12	0.93
	<b>1B</b>	0.00	57.9	7.86	6.28	1.58
	<b>1C</b>	0.09	42.1	7.84	7.10	0.74
<b>2</b>	<b>2A</b>	0.00	99.3	6.70	5.54	1.16
	<b>2B</b>	1.44	0.6	7.45	5.79	1.66
	<b>2C</b>	2.01	0.1	7.50	6.54	0.96
<b>3</b>	<b>3A</b>	1.58	0.4	7.68	6.73	0.95
	<b>3B</b>	0.00	99.6	7.66	5.03	2.62
	<b>3C</b>	6.77	0.0	8.05	6.56	1.49
				8.44	7.18	1.26
	<b>3D</b>	9.23	0.0	7.14	4.84	2.30
				7.97	7.48	0.49
	<b>3E</b>	3.26	0.0	5.56	6.88	-1.32
			8.19	6.64	1.55	
<b>3F</b>	15.35	0.0	4.38	6.00	-1.63	
			7.72	7.54	0.18	
<b>3G</b>	15.19	0.0	7.41	6.73	0.69	

on the nature of the solvent, which corresponds to the NMR experiment. Moreover, we attempted to assign the structure of conformers **2a,b** on the basis of calculated NMR chemical shifts of characteristic protons H<sup>2</sup> and H<sup>3</sup> in the theoretically possible rotamers **2A–C**. Thus, as follows from the calculations shown in Table 1, the proximity of H<sup>2</sup> and/or H<sup>3</sup> with the Cl atom should provide a downfield shift of the NMR signals of these protons. Only the main conformer **2a** satisfies this condition, in which the H<sup>2</sup> proton experiences a deshielding effect (Table 2), however the theoretical population of the corresponding rotamer **2B** in all three solvents is 7–15%. Thus, a more detailed theoretical studies of the conformer solvation process and its influence on the NMR chemical shifts are required, namely, consideration of specific solvation probably with the gradual inclusion of solvent molecules.

Quantum chemical calculations for the complex Ind\*<sub>2</sub>ZrCl<sub>2</sub> (**3**) showed the existence of seven conformers, three of them having C<sub>2</sub> symmetry (**3A**, **3B**, **3G**) and the others having the C<sub>1</sub> symmetry (Fig. 4). Conformer **3B** was found to be energetically most favorable. The relative Gibbs energy difference between the major and minor conformers is more than 1.5 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>

(Table 1); therefore, the population of **3B** is greater than 99%. According to X-ray diffraction data,<sup>3a</sup> the complex in the crystal occurs in conformation **3A**.

A variable temperature NMR study of solutions of Ind\*<sub>2</sub>ZrCl<sub>2</sub> (**3**) in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, d<sub>8</sub>-toluene, and d<sub>8</sub>-THF showed that (i) the dynamic pattern in the NMR spectra is associated with the mobility of indenyl ligands relative to each other and the Zr atom, (ii) mobility of the η<sup>5</sup>-ligand and, hence, the conformational composition of the complex depends on the solvent nature.

For example, lowering the temperature of a solution of complex **3** in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> down to 180 K induces splitting of the resonance lines of protons at C<sup>2</sup> and C<sup>3</sup> in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra into three groups of signals, indicating the existence of at least three conformers. Two of them (**3a,b**) refer to C<sub>2</sub>-symmetry and one (**3c**) has C<sub>1</sub>-symmetry, their ratio in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> being 70 : 15 : 15 (Fig. 5, Table 2). This result is consistent with published data.<sup>3a,d</sup> The analysis of the chemical shifts of the observed conformers indicates that the C<sub>2</sub>-symmetric rotamer **3a** can be related to the theoretically predicted structures **3A,G**. The upfield shift of the H<sup>3</sup> signal of the other conformer of the same symmetry (**3b**)<sup>3a,d</sup> is apparently caused by the shielding effect of the benzene moiety of the opposing indenyl ligand, which is consistent with the results on chemical shift calculations showed in Table 1; this provides grounds for assigning the theoretical structure **3B** to conformer **3b**. The signals of the H<sup>2</sup> and H<sup>3</sup> protons of the C<sub>1</sub>-symmetric conformer **3c** are located at 6–7 ppm, which is indicative of the absence of the shielding effect from the benzene ring of the opposing ligand. This is the only case of theoretical structure **3C**.

Unlike CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, in d<sub>8</sub>-toluene, complex **3** was found to comprise only two C<sub>2</sub>-symmetric conformers, **3a** and **3b**, in a ratio of 20 : 80 (Table 2). The same pattern was observed in THF. Thus, conformer **3B** most probably predominates in these solvents, as has been theoretically predicted.

The rate constants and thermodynamic parameters for the exchange between the rotamers of complex **3** in toluene were determined on the basis of lineshape analysis for the H<sup>2</sup> proton signals in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum:  $k_{190} = 18.7 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta G_{190}^\ddagger = 10.09 \pm 0.06 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta H^\ddagger = 8.15 \pm 0.38 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta S^\ddagger = -10.30 \pm 7.88 \text{ cal (mol K)}^{-1}$  (Fig. S8†). It can be stated that the interconversion rate for complex **3** is higher than that in complex **2**. Thus, going from neomenthyl-substituted tetrahydroindenyl to the indenyl ligand accelerates the intramolecular dynamic process, apparently, due to a decrease in the activation barrier.

As follows from Fig. 6, gradual addition of dichloromethane to a toluene solution of complex **3** induces a change in the conformer ratio, so that at a high content of CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, conformer **3a** actually starts to predominate.

Theoretical modelling of the solvent effect on the conformer **3A–G** distribution demonstrated the possibility of the increase in the **3A** content to the ratio **3A:3B** ≈ 1 : 1 (Table S1†) both in dichloromethane and THF, however, the model that is used for the system description does not explain the exceptional influence of the chlorine-containing solvent on the complex **3** conformational behavior.



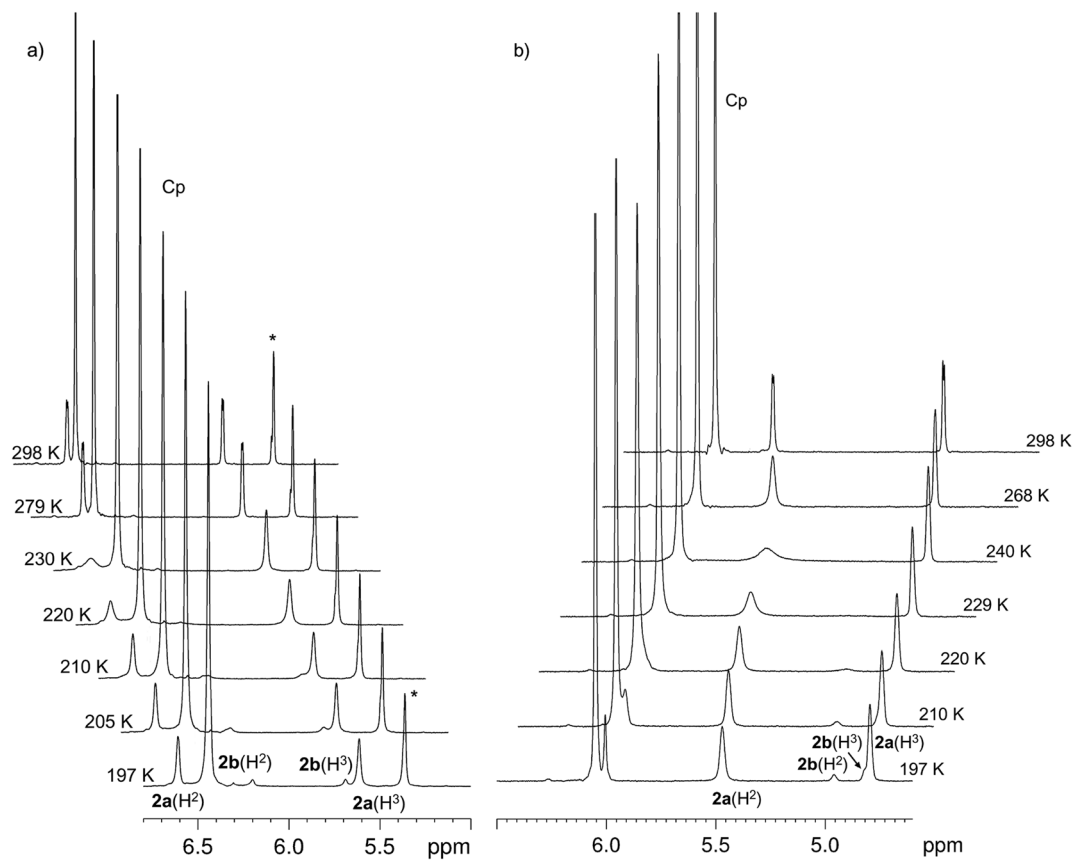


Fig. 3 Variable temperature  $^1\text{H}$  NMR study of complex **2** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (a) and  $d_8$ -toluene (b) (\*-solvent).

Table 2  $^1\text{H}$  NMR chemical shifts of the conformers of complexes **2** and **3** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $d_8$ -toluene and  $d_8$ -THF (400.13 MHz,  $T = 190$  K)

Complex	Solvent	Conformer	Conformer ratio	$\delta$ ( $^1\text{H}$ ), ppm		
				$\text{H}^2$	$\text{H}^3$	$\Delta\delta_{(\text{H}^2-\text{H}^3)}$
2	$\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (190 K)	2a	88	6.83	5.59	1.24
		2b	12	6.18	5.67	0.51
	$d_8$ -Toluene (190 K)	2a	90	5.47	4.79	0.68
		2b	10	4.96	4.82	0.14
	$d_8$ -THF (190 K)	2a	87	7.01	5.82	1.19
		2b	13	6.51	5.89	0.62
3	$\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (180 K)	3a	70	7.15	6.32	0.83
		3b	15	6.63	4.80	1.83
		3c	15	7.04	6.43	0.64
	$d_8$ -Toluene (180 K)	3a	20	6.13	5.87	0.26
		3b	80	6.07	4.40	1.67
		3c	0	—	—	—
	$d_8$ -THF (185 K)	3a	18	7.41	6.35	1.06
		3b	82	6.85	4.83	2.02
		3c	0	—	—	—

Thus, the conformational composition and the mobility of the  $\eta^5$ -ligand largely depend on the nature of the solvent, which may play a considerable role in the control of the catalytic activity and enantioselectivity of chiral zirconocenes in the alkene functionalization by OAC.

#### Catalytic action of enantiomerically pure zirconocenes in the reactions of alkenes with trialkylalanes

The results of our previous studies on the activity and enantioselectivity of catalysts **1–3** in the alkene carbo- and cyclometa-



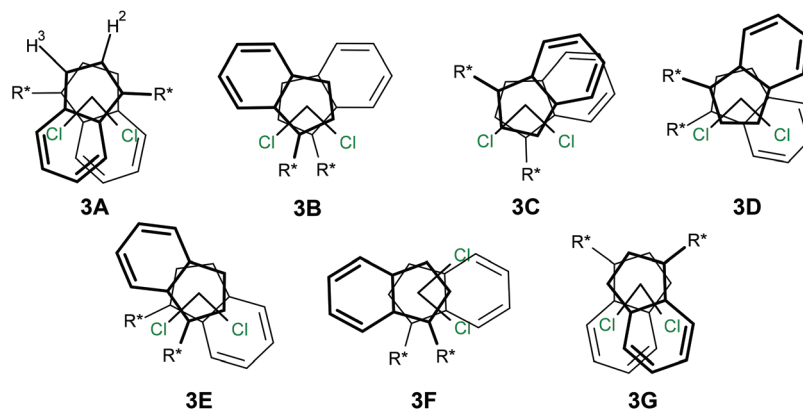


Fig. 4 Structure of conformers of complex  $\text{Ind}^*_2\text{ZrCl}_2$  (**3**).

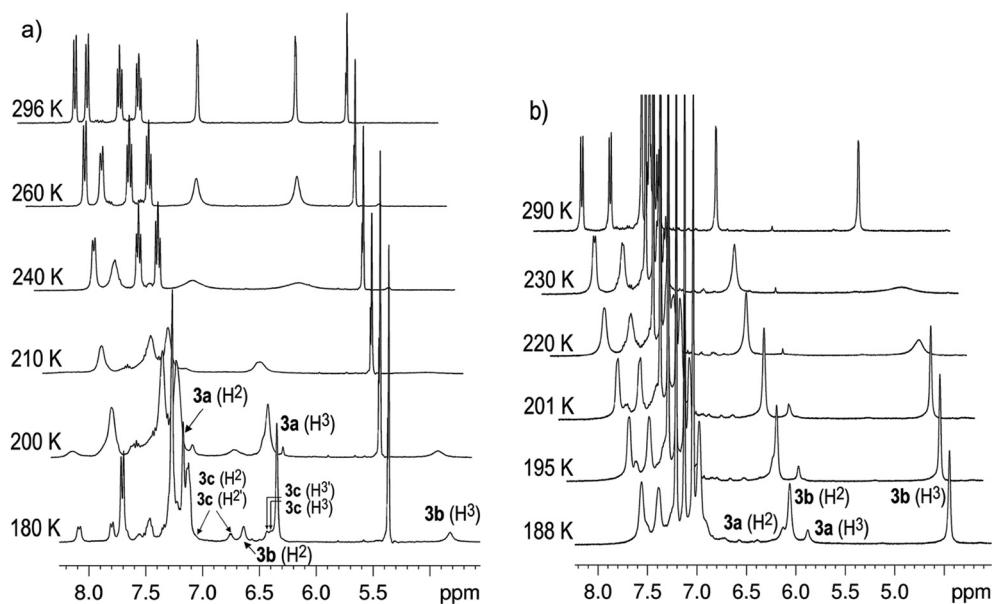


Fig. 5 Variable temperature  $^1\text{H}$  NMR study of complex **3** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (a) and  $d_8$ -toluene (b).

lation by organoaluminum or -magnesium compounds,<sup>6</sup> which are summarized in Scheme 3 and Table 3, gave an idea on the substantial contribution of the conformational mobility of  $\eta^5$ -ligands. Thus, we found that the best results for alkene carbometallation, catalyzed by complexes **1–3** are achieved in dichloromethane.<sup>6a,c</sup> It was demonstrated that replacement of  $\text{AlMe}_3$  by  $\text{AlEt}_3$  in the reaction catalyzed by complex (**3**) results in the *R* to *S* change of the absolute configuration of the  $\beta$ -stereogenic center in the carboalumination products.<sup>6a</sup> Indeed, if one considers the conformational mobility of  $\eta^5$ -ligands in the key intermediates of alkene carbometallation [ $\text{L}_2\text{ZrR}(\mu\text{-Cl})\text{AlR}_3$ ],<sup>15</sup> the dependence of the stereochemical result of the reaction on the type of  $\text{AlR}_3$  becomes evident.<sup>6a</sup> Further, the cycloalumination of terminal alkenes gives aluminacyclopentanes in up to 85% yield and 24–57%ee;<sup>6b,c</sup> the highest enantioselectivity ( $\sim 57\%$ ee) in cycloalumination was found in the reaction of vinyl-substituted hydrocarbons

with  $\text{AlEt}_3$  conducted in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .<sup>6c</sup> Terminal alkenes react with organomagnesium compounds in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  or THF in the presence of catalysts **2** or **3** with low conversion and low enantioselectivity ( $<8\%$ ee).<sup>6d</sup> The cyclometalation of substituted allylbenzenes with  $\text{EtAlCl}_2$  ( $\text{Et}_2\text{AlCl}$ ) and the Mg metal in THF in the presence of catalytic amounts of complexes **1–3** gives *trans*-2,3-dibenzyl-substituted aluminacyclopentanes with enantiomeric purity of not more than 16%ee.<sup>6e</sup>

In order to determine the degree of influence of the ligand intramolecular mobility on the reaction enantioselectivity, we studied the catalytic properties of enantiomerically pure complexes with a fixed geometry. It was found that *ansa*-complexes **4–7** provide somewhat lower enantioselectivity than the conformationally mobile catalyst **3** (Table 4) both in carbo- and cycloalumination of alkenes. The application of neither binaphtholate (**6**) nor dichloride (**4**) complexes with Si-bonded ligands in the reaction of 1-octene with  $\text{AlMe}_3$  resulted in the



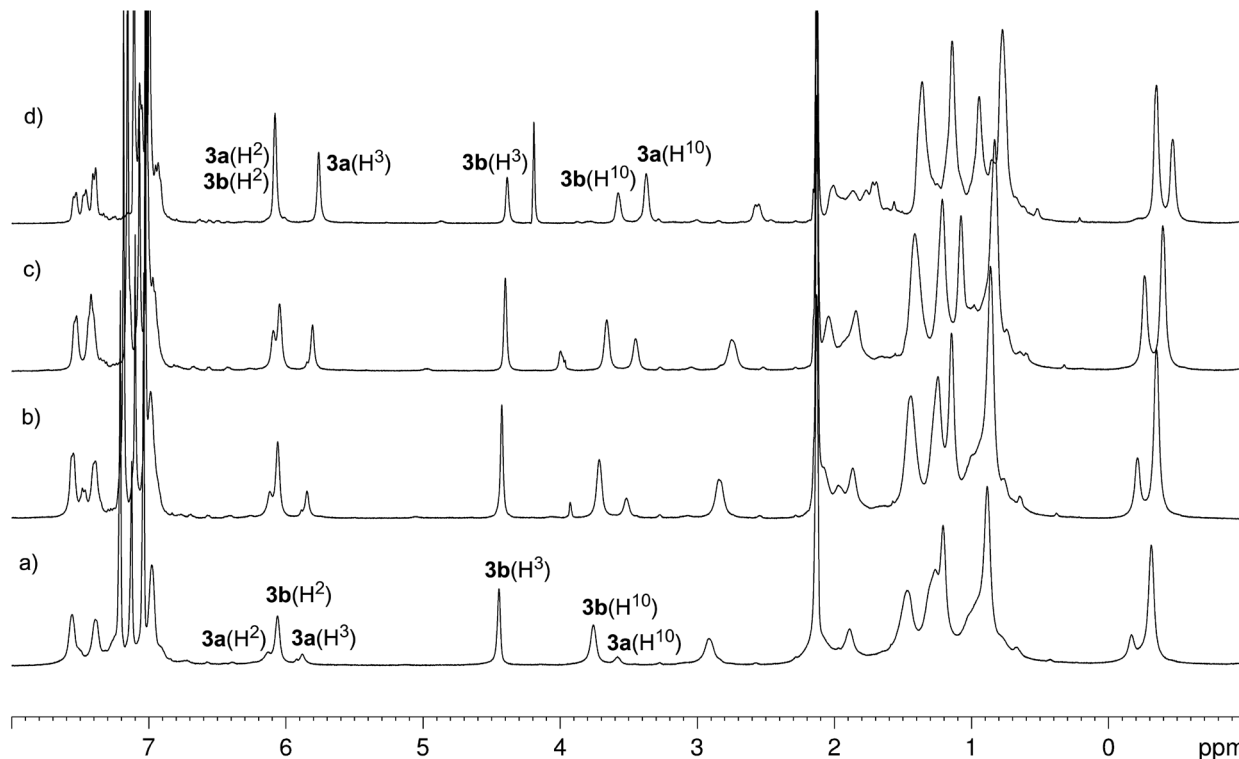
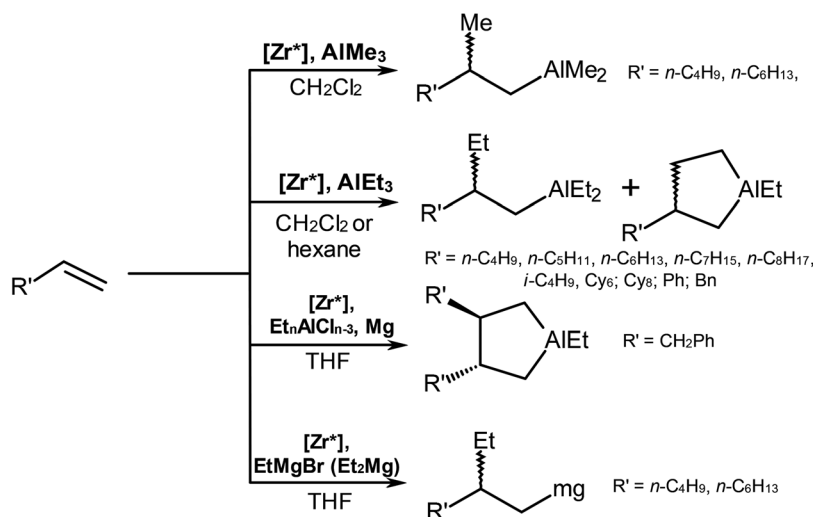


Fig. 6  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of complex **3** in  $d_8$ -toluene ( $0.05 \text{ M l}^{-1}$ ) and admixtures of  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $T = 188 \text{ K}$ ): (a) 0 mmol  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , (b) 1.6 mmol  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , (c) 3.0 mmol  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , (d) 4.9 mmol  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



Scheme 3

formation of products. The MAO activation of the catalyst **4** afforded carbometallation product (**8**) in  $\sim 66\%$  yield and an enantiomeric excess of 65%, *R* (Scheme 4). Moreover, functionally substituted oligomers **11** were also formed in up to 34% yield.

In the reaction of  $\text{AlEt}_3$  with 1-hexene, the highest enantioselectivity towards carboalumination (**12**) at a level of 50–51% ee, *R*, was found for dichloride complexes **4** and **5** (Scheme 5).

The catalyst structures containing a binaphtholate moiety (**6**, **7**) provide much lower enantiomeric excess of **12**. The enantiomeric purity of cyclic OAC (**13**) upon the use of catalysts **4**–**7** was 12–26% ee, *S*. The reaction of 1-hexene with  $\text{AlEt}_3$  catalyzed by these complexes also resulted in the regioselective formation of enantiomerically enriched functionally substituted oligomers **14** with up to 6 units (Table 4). Analysis of the isolated functionally substituted dimers **11** and **19** demonstrated



**Table 3** Catalytic activity and enantioselectivity of zirconocenes 1–3 in the reactions of organoaluminum and -magnesium compounds with alkenes

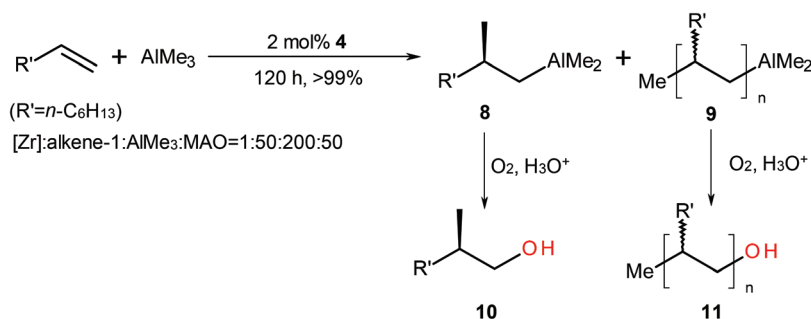
Catalyst	Reagents	Solvent	Alkene conversion, %	Product yield, <sup>a</sup> % (ee%, <i>R/S</i> )		Ref.
				Carbometalation	Cyclometalation	
1, 2 mol%	AlEt <sub>3</sub> , 1-hexene	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	85	30 (27, <i>S</i> )	39 (20, <i>R</i> )	6a
1, 2 mol%	AlMe <sub>3</sub> , 1-octene	Toluene	59	58 (3, <i>R</i> )	—	6a
1, 5 mol%	EtMgBr, 1-octene	THF	60	51 (3, <i>S</i> )	4 (5, <i>S</i> )	6d
1, 5 mol%	EtMgBr, 1-octene	Toluene	32	18 (8, <i>S</i> )	6 (2, <i>S</i> )	6d
1, 5 mol%	EtAlCl <sub>2</sub> , allylbenzene	THF	83	—	21 (13)	6e
2, 2 mol%	AlMe <sub>3</sub> , 1-hexene	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	53	51 (41, <i>S</i> )	—	6a
2, 2 mol%	AlEt <sub>3</sub> , 1-hexene	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	99	36 (13, <i>R</i> )	38 (11, <i>R</i> )	6a
3, 8 mol%	AlMe <sub>3</sub> , 1-hexene	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	94	81 (69, <i>R</i> )	—	6a
3, 8 mol%	AlEt <sub>3</sub> , 1-octene	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	99	92 (59, <i>S</i> )	7 (3, <i>S</i> )	6a
3, 8 mol%	AlEt <sub>3</sub> , 1-octene	Toluene	99 <sup>a</sup>	3 (7, <i>S</i> )	1	—
3, 8 mol%	AlEt <sub>3</sub> , vinylcyclohexane	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	85	34 (62, <i>S</i> )	42 (57, <i>S</i> )	6c
3, 8 mol%	AlEt <sub>3</sub> , vinylcyclohexane	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	30	4	23 (24, <i>R</i> )	6b
3, 5 mol%	MgEt <sub>2</sub> , 1-octene	THF	10	4	4	6d
3, 5 mol%	EtMgBr, 1-octene	Toluene	7	3	4	—
3, 5 mol%	EtAlCl <sub>2</sub> , allylbenzene	THF	65	—	34 (16)	6e

<sup>a</sup> The reaction runs in the presence of MAO only (30 mol%) and gives 95% of oligomers after 3 h.

**Table 4** Reaction of 1-hexene with AlEt<sub>3</sub>, catalyzed by complexes 4–7 (mole ratio [Zr] : alkene : AlEt<sub>3</sub> = 1 : 50 : 60, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 72 h, 20 °C)

Catalyst	Alkene conversion, %	Product yield, <sup>a</sup> % (ee%, <i>R/S</i> )		
		12	13	14
<i>p-S, p-S</i> -4	99	64 (50, <i>R</i> )	15 (12, <i>S</i> )	13, <i>n</i> = 2–6, [α] <sub>D</sub> <sup>25</sup> (19) = +3.3°
<i>p-S, p-S</i> -5	95	62 (51, <i>R</i> )	18 (11, <i>S</i> )	10, <i>n</i> = 2, [α] <sub>D</sub> <sup>25</sup> (19) = +0.35°
<i>S, p-S, p-S</i> -6	99	15 (15, <i>R</i> )	30 (20, <i>S</i> )	54, <i>n</i> = 2
<i>S, p-S, p-S</i> -7	98	60 (30, <i>R</i> )	21 (26, <i>S</i> )	12, <i>n</i> = 2, [α] <sub>D</sub> <sup>25</sup> (19) = –1.5°

<sup>a</sup> Determined by GC of deuterolysis products.



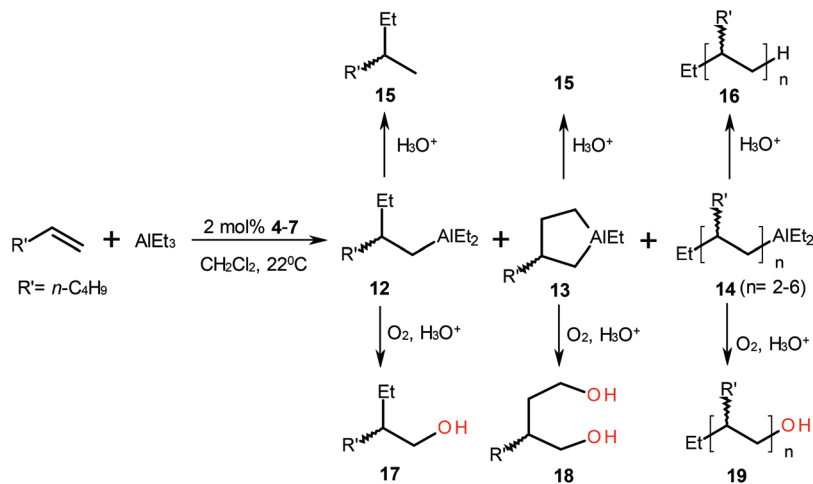
that the reaction gave a single diastereomer. The result is consistent with published data indicating a high stereoselectivity of *ansa*-complexes in the alkene polymerization.<sup>16</sup>

Thus, fixing the geometry of the zirconocene complex results in the formation of methyl- and ethylalumination products with the same configuration of the β-stereogenic center (unlike the conformationally mobile complexes). This result confirms once again the hypothesis stating that in the case of conformationally flexible complexes (*e.g.*, 3), the reaction enantioselectivity is dictated by the intramolecular mobility of

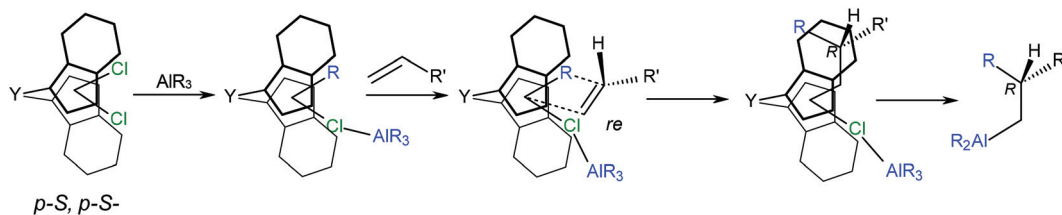
η<sup>5</sup>-ligands in the Zr,Al-bimetallic intermediates (in particular, distribution of conformers of the active sites and the activation energies of alkene insertion).<sup>6a</sup>

Apparently, the predominance of the *R*-enantiomers of carbometalation products in the reactions catalyzed by complexes 4–7 occurs upon substrate re-coordination to the Zr–C bond of the active complex having the *p-S, p-S*-configuration of the conformationally rigid ligand environment (Scheme 6). In the case of complex 3, the formation of *R*-enantiomers in the reaction of alkenes with AlMe<sub>3</sub> can be due to the involvement of





Scheme 5

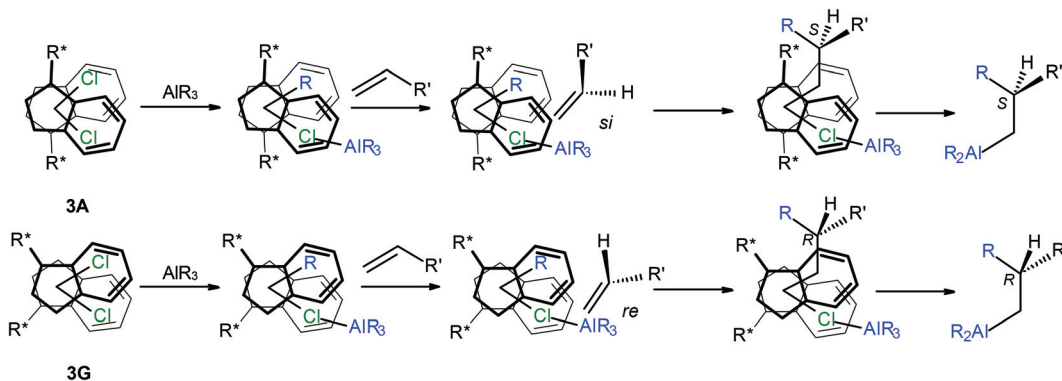


Scheme 6

the active site originated from conformer **3G**, whereas *S*-isomers are produced *via* a **3A**-like intermediate (Scheme 7).

The solvent can make an additional contribution to the enantioselectivity control by changing the interconversion rate between the conformers of catalytically active sites and thus forming a particular conformational composition. The higher enantioselectivity of the reaction of alkenes with  $\text{AlEt}_3$  catalyzed by **3** in a chlorine-containing solvent<sup>4b,6a</sup> than in the case of hydrocarbon or oxygen-containing solvent may be attributable to the more diverse conformational composition, which, as we have shown in relation to the initial zirconocene dichlor-

ide, is possible in this case. The use of toluene or THF as the solvent causes the domination of sterically hindered conformer **3B** and, hence, the activity and enantioselectivity of the catalyst system decrease. Thus, it follows that a homogeneous conformational composition and slow interconversion of conformers are not necessary conditions for the reaction to proceed with high yield and enantioselectivity (unlike the stereoselective polymerization catalyzed by conformationally homogeneous complexes<sup>3a,d</sup>). A significant issue is the ligand mobility: the more variable is a complex (to a certain limit), the more versatile it is. In other words, the greater the number



Scheme 7



of “keys” (*i.e.*, catalytically active sites with a certain geometry) it can form, the greater the number of “locks” (substrates) that can be subjected to chemo- and enantioselective transformation. As a result, the chemo- and enantioselectivity of the reactions are determined by the kinetic factor, namely, the rate of the key–lock pair reaction. Provided a good match of pair components, high rate and high stereoselectivity along a particular reaction route can be achieved.

## Conclusions

The conformational composition and intramolecular exchange between the conformers of neomenthyl-substituted zirconocenes, CpInd\*ZrCl<sub>2</sub>, CpCp'ZrCl<sub>2</sub>, and Ind\*<sub>2</sub>ZrCl<sub>2</sub>, depending on the nature of the solvent (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, d<sub>8</sub>-toluene, d<sub>8</sub>-THF) were studied by dynamic NMR spectroscopy and DFT calculations.

Quantum chemical modeling demonstrated the possibility of the existence of three rotamers of complexes CpInd\*ZrCl<sub>2</sub> and CpCp'ZrCl<sub>2</sub>. According to dynamic NMR, even at low temperatures (170–180 K), the exchange between CpInd\*ZrCl<sub>2</sub> conformers in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and d<sub>8</sub>-toluene is not completely retarded. In the case of the complex CpCp'ZrCl<sub>2</sub>, slow interconversion of two rotamers was found below 220 K, the ratio of the rotamers (~90 : 10) being virtually independent of the solvent nature. In the chlorinated solvent, the exchange between the conformers of CpCp'ZrCl<sub>2</sub> is accelerated.

For the complex Ind\*<sub>2</sub>ZrCl<sub>2</sub>, the existence of seven rotamers is theoretically possible, three of them being C<sub>2</sub>-symmetric and the others being asymmetric. Experimentally we found no more than three rotamers of the complex. The replacement of dichloromethane by toluene or THF results in a considerable change in the conformational composition, namely, in the number and the ratio of rotamers: only two C<sub>2</sub>-symmetric conformers in an ~80 : 20 ratio were found both in toluene and in THF. Switching from the mixed CpCp'ZrCl<sub>2</sub> complex containing the substituted tetrahydroindenyl ligand to the bisindenyl Ind\*<sub>2</sub>ZrCl<sub>2</sub> complex is accompanied by increase in the intramolecular ligand mobility and decrease in the interconversion barriers for the conformers.

The catalytic properties of conformationally rigid complexes, *rac-p-S*, *p-S*-[Y(η<sup>5</sup>-C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]ZrX<sub>2</sub> (Y = SiMe<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>; X = *S*-binaphtholate), in reactions of alkenes with AlR<sub>3</sub> (R = Me, Et) were studied. The reaction of alkenes with AlMe<sub>3</sub> catalyzed by *rac-p-S*, *p-S*-[Me<sub>2</sub>Si(η<sup>5</sup>-C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]ZrCl<sub>2</sub> in the presence of MAO gave methylaluminum products in 66% yield and with enantiomeric purity of 65%*ee*, *R*. The alkene carboalumination with AlEt<sub>3</sub> catalyzed by *rac-p-S*, *p-S*-[Y(η<sup>5</sup>-C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]ZrCl<sub>2</sub> (Y = SiMe<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>) afforded 2-ethyl-substituted derivatives in 62–64% yield and an enantiomeric excess of 50–51%*ee*, *R*. The reaction of AlR<sub>3</sub> with alkenes in the presence of enantiomerically pure Zr *ansa*-complexes provided enantiomerically enriched functionally substituted oligomeric products as well.

A comparison of the catalytic action of conformationally mobile neomenthyl-substituted bisindenyl complex Ind\*<sub>2</sub>ZrCl<sub>2</sub> and rigid *ansa*-zirconocenes in the reactions of alkenes with

AlR<sub>3</sub> (R = Me, Et) and the relationship between the conformational composition of flexible complexes and their activity and enantioselectivity in the same reactions depending on the solvent nature provide the conclusion about a substantial contribution of the conformational composition and ligand mobility to the activity of catalytic systems and the degree of asymmetric induction. In this connection, further optimization of the ligand environment, namely, the search for appropriate conformers that could be formed *via* either introduction of suitable substituents into the indenyl ligand or upon binding of ligands could advance these studies towards the design of more efficient catalysts for alkene functionalization by organomagnesium and -aluminum reagents.

## Experimental

### General procedures

All operations for organometallic compounds were performed under argon according to the Schlenk technique. The zirconocenes 1–3, and racemic 4 and 5 were prepared using the standard procedures from ZrCl<sub>4</sub> (99.5%, Aldrich) (1, 2, <sup>13,6a</sup> 3, <sup>3a,6b</sup> *rac-4*, <sup>17</sup> *rac-5*<sup>18</sup>). Kinetic resolution of *rac-4* and *rac-5* was carried out using lithium *S*-binaphtholate according to the method described in ref. 19. The solvents (hexane, benzene, toluene) were distilled from *i*-Bu<sub>2</sub>AlH immediately prior to use; THF and diethyl ether were dried and distilled from sodium/benzophenone before use. Dichloromethane was dried over P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. Commercially available 98% AlEt<sub>3</sub>, 97% AlMe<sub>3</sub> (Aldrich) and 10 wt% MAO in toluene (Aldrich) were involved in the reactions. Terminal alkenes 1-hexene (97%, Acros) and 1-octene (99%, Acros) were used.

The <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, and <sup>77</sup>Se NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE-400 spectrometer (400.13 MHz (<sup>1</sup>H), 100.62 MHz (<sup>13</sup>C), and 76.35 MHz (<sup>77</sup>Se)). A low temperature NMR study on the conformational behavior of complexes 1–3 was carried out in the interval of 170–300 K. The constants and activation parameters of conformer exchange were found using lineshape analysis of NMR spectra in program Bruker TopSpin 3.0. d<sub>8</sub>-Toluene, d<sub>8</sub>-tetrahydrofuran and CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were employed as the solvent and internal standard. The <sup>77</sup>Se chemical shifts are referred to Me<sub>2</sub>Se. 1D and 2D NMR spectra (COSY HH, HSQC, HMBC) were recorded using standard Bruker pulse sequences. The optical rotation [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> was measured on a Perkin Elmer-341 polarimeter. Chromatographic analysis was carried out on a CARLO ERBA 1150 instrument in a helium flow, a 50 000 × 0.32 mm column, an ULTRA-1 stationary phase, and a flame ionization detector. The deuterated products were analyzed by GC/MS on an automated QP 2010 Ultra GC/MS assembled with a TD-20 Shimadzu thermal desorber. The enantioselectivity of 1-alkene carbo- and cyclometallation was estimated from the enantiomeric purity of the alcohols resulting from oxidation and hydrolysis of the reaction products. The alcohols isolated in a pure state were involved in the reaction with *R*(+)-phenyl-



selenopropionic acid (*R*-PSPA)<sup>20</sup> to give diastereomeric esters, which were then analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, and <sup>77</sup>Se NMR.

### Computational details

All calculations were carried out at the DFT level. The primary conformer screening by η<sup>5</sup>-ligand rotation, subsequent geometry optimization of the minima, vibrational frequency analysis, and calculation of thermodynamic corrections to the total energy of the compounds were carried out using the PRIRODA 06 program<sup>7</sup> with the Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof (PBE) functional<sup>8</sup> in combination with a 3ζ basis set<sup>7b,c</sup> (orbital basis sets of contracted Gaussian-type functions of size (5s1p)/[3s1p] for H, (11s6p2d)/[6s3p2d] for C, (15s11p2d)/[10s6p2d] for Cl, and (20s16p11d)/[14s11p7d] for Zr, which were used in combination with the density-fitting basis sets of uncontracted Gaussian-type functions of size (5s2p) for H, (10s3p3d1f) for C, (14s3p3d1f1g) for Cl, and (22s5p5d4f4g) for Zr). Further DFT calculations were performed using the Gaussian 09 software package, Revision D.01 program.<sup>21</sup> The density functional M06-2X<sup>10</sup> with the cc-pVDZ basis set for the main group elements (H, C, Cl)<sup>11</sup> and the cc-pVDZ-PP basis set for the transitional metal (Zr)<sup>12</sup> was employed as the method applicable for the description of Zr-containing systems.<sup>9</sup> We used the Conductor-like Polarizable Continuum Model (CPCM)<sup>14</sup> for the estimation of solvent effects on the conformer distribution. Calculated thermodynamic parameters were determined at 180 K. NMR shifts were calculated using the GIAO method.<sup>22</sup> Visualization of quantum chemical data was carried out using the program ChemCraft.<sup>23</sup>

### Synthesis of enantiomerically pure *ansa*-complexes 4 and 6

The complexes were synthesized according to ref. 17 and 18 and derivatized by the procedure described in ref. 19. A 50 mL glass reactor mounted on a magnetic stirrer was charged under argon with *S*-binaphthol (1.1 mmol, 0.32 g) and toluene (20 mL). The mixture was cooled to –78 °C and butyllithium (0.88 ml, 2.5 M in hexane) was added. The temperature of the reaction mixture was brought to 20 °C and the mixture was stirred until a white lithium *S*-binaphtholate precipitate formed. Complex *rac*-4 (2.2 mmol, 1.0 g) was preliminary mixed with toluene (20 ml) and the resulting solution of the complex was added in small portions with cooling (down to –78 °C) to a mixture of lithium *S*-binaphtholate. The reaction mixture was warmed up to room temperature (22 °C) and stirred for 12 h until a white precipitate was formed. After solvent evaporation, dichloromethane (20 mL) was added to the residue and the solution was filtered through a glass filter. The filtrate was concentrated to give 6 as a microcrystalline precipitate.

Binaphtholate complex 6 (0.05 g, 0.075 mmol) was dissolved in dichloromethane (20 mL), and Me<sub>3</sub>SiCl (0.15 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h. By <sup>1</sup>H NMR monitoring, the formation of dichloride complex *p*-*S*, *p*-*S*-4 (90%, 99%ee) was observed. The complex was isolated by recrystallization from toluene.

The NMR spectra of compounds 4, 5, 7 corresponded to published data (4,<sup>17</sup> 5,<sup>18b,c,719</sup>).

*p*-*S*, *p*-*S*-(Dimethylsilanediyl {η<sup>5</sup>-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroindenyl}) zirconium]-*S*-binaphtholate (6). Yield: 0.44 g, 30% (99%ee, <sup>1</sup>H NMR). [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = +127° (c 0.27 in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>) δ 0.557 (s, 6H, SiMe<sub>2</sub>), 0.97–1.12 (m, 2H, C<sup>6</sup>H<sub>ax</sub>H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.20–1.34 (m, 2H, C<sup>7</sup>H<sub>ax</sub>H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.41–1.55 (m, 2H, C<sup>6</sup>H<sub>ax</sub>H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.55–1.70 (m, 2H, C<sup>7</sup>H<sub>ax</sub>H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.69–1.84 (m, 2H, C<sup>5</sup>H<sub>ax</sub>H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.87–2.03 (m, 2H, C<sup>5</sup>H<sub>ax</sub>H<sub>eq</sub>), 2.29–2.40 (m, 4H, C<sup>8</sup>H<sub>2</sub>), 5.46 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H, C<sup>2</sup>H), 5.92 (d, *J* = 3 Hz, 2H, C<sup>3</sup>H); 6.90 (m, 2H, C<sup>17</sup>H), 7.08 (m, 2H, C<sup>16</sup>H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H, C<sup>12</sup>H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, C<sup>18</sup>H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H, C<sup>15</sup>H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H, C<sup>13</sup>H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>) δ –2.3 (SiMe), 21.99 (C<sup>6</sup>), 22.79 (C<sup>7</sup>), 23.01 (C<sup>5</sup>), 26.12 (C<sup>8</sup>), 105.29 (C<sup>1</sup>), 111.76 (C<sup>2</sup>), 118.74 (C<sup>3</sup>), 127.20 (C<sup>9</sup>), 137.59 (C<sup>4</sup>), 118.73 (C<sup>20</sup>), 121.89 (C<sup>12</sup>), 122.53 (C<sup>16</sup>), 125.89 (C<sup>17</sup>), 127.02 (C<sup>18</sup>), 127.77 (C<sup>15</sup>), 128.96 (C<sup>13</sup>), 135.30 (C<sup>19</sup>), 135.55 (C<sup>14</sup>), 160.06 (C<sup>11</sup>).

### Reaction of alkenes with AlR<sub>3</sub> (R = Me, Et) in the presence of complexes 4–7

A 25 mL glass reactor mounted on a magnetic stirrer and filled with argon was charged with catalyst (4–7) (0.03 mmol), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> or C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> (10 ml), alkene (1.5 mmol), and AlR<sub>3</sub> (1.8–7.2 mmol). In the reaction with AlMe<sub>3</sub>, MAO (1.5 mmol, 10 wt% in toluene) was added. The reaction was carried out at 20 °C with continuous stirring for 72–120 hours. After completion of the reaction, a part of the reaction mixture was quenched with 10% DCl at 0 °C. The products were extracted with benzene and filtered, and the organic layer was dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The product yield (8, 9, 12–14) was determined by analyzing the hydrolysis and deuterolysis products by GLC and GC/MS.

The remaining reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and oxidized by bubbling O<sub>2</sub> for 2 h, and then kept in an oxygen atmosphere for 24 hours more. The products were quenched with HCl and extracted into diethyl ether, and the organic layer was dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. Functionally substituted dimers (19) were isolated by column chromatography on silica gel using a 6:1 hexane:diethyl ether system. Monohydric alcohols (10, 17) were isolated by column chromatography on silica gel in a 4:1 hexane:diethyl ether system. Dihydric alcohol (18) was isolated as an oily liquid after 17 upon the subsequent washing of the column with acetone. The organic fractions were dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

The NMR spectra of compounds 17 and 18 and their PSPA esters corresponded to published data.<sup>6a,d</sup>

(2*R,S*)-Methyl-1-octanol (8).<sup>6a</sup> Yield: 0.12 g, 55%. Elemental analysis (%) calc. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O: C, 74.93; H, 13.97; O, 11.09%. Found: C, 74.61; H, 14.03; O, 11.36%. *n*<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> = 1430; b.p. 131 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.89 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.92 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.03–1.16 (m, 1H, CHCHHCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.36–1.44 (m, 1H, CHCHHCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.22–1.36 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.61 (oct, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.51 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J* = 10.4 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H, CHHOH), 3.41 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J* = 10.4 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H, CHHOH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.1 (C<sup>9</sup>), 16.7 (C<sup>3</sup>), 22.8 (C<sup>8</sup>), 27.2 (C<sup>5</sup>), 29.8 (C<sup>6</sup>), 32.0 (C<sup>7</sup>), 33.4 (C<sup>4</sup>), 36.0 (C<sup>2</sup>), 67.8 (C<sup>1</sup>).

(*R*)-PSPA ester of (2*R,S*)-methyl-1-octanol (20). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.88 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 7.3 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH), 0.859 (d, 3H,



$^3J = 7.2$  Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.21–1.40 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.61–1.75 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH), 1.55 (d, 3H,  $^3J = 7.1$  Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>CH), 3.74–3.82 (m, 1H, CHSe), 3.76–3.87 (m, 1H, CHHO), 3.89–3.97 (m, 1H, CHHO), 7.21–7.40 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.62 (dd, 2H,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, Ph). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.0 (C<sup>9</sup>), 16.8 (C<sup>3</sup>), 17.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>CHSe), 22.6 (C<sup>8</sup>), 25.7 (C), 29.5 (C<sup>5</sup>), 31.2 (C<sup>7</sup>), 34.97 (C<sup>4</sup>), 38.4 (C<sup>2</sup>), 37.54 (CHSe), 70.0 (C<sup>1</sup>), 128.4, 128.97, 129.1, 135.5, 137.1 (Ph), 173.7 (C=O). <sup>77</sup>Se NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 452.36 (SR), 452.66 (RR).

**4-Methyl-2-*n*-octyl-1-dodecanol (11).** Yield: 0.21 g, 29%. Elemental analysis (%) calc. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>44</sub>O: C, 80.69; H, 14.19; O, 5.12%. Found: C, 80.21; H 14.98; O 4.81%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.88 (d, 3H,  $^3J = 7.3$  Hz, C<sup>13</sup>H<sub>3</sub>), 0.904 (t, 3H,  $^3J = 7.3$  Hz, C<sup>21</sup>H<sub>3</sub>, C<sup>12</sup>H<sub>3</sub>), 0.997–1.082 (m, 1H, C<sup>3</sup>HH), 1.247–1.329 (m, 1H, C<sup>3</sup>HH), 1.053–1.445 (m, 2H, C<sup>5</sup>HH), 1.24–1.33 (m, 2H, C<sup>5</sup>HH), 1.44–1.523 (m, 1H, C<sup>4</sup>H), 1.503–1.595 (m, 1H, C<sup>2</sup>H), 1.16–1.47 (m, 22H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.466–3.596 (m, 2H, C<sup>1</sup>H<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.09 (C<sup>14</sup>, C<sup>21</sup>), 19.98 (C<sup>13</sup>), 22.68 (C<sup>20</sup>, C<sup>11</sup>), 26.86, 27.07, 26.98, 26.66 (C<sup>15</sup>), 29.4 (C<sup>9</sup>), 29.64, 29.69 (C<sup>6</sup>), 30.02 (C<sup>17</sup>), 30.09 (C<sup>16</sup>), 30.30 (C<sup>4</sup>), 30.86 (C<sup>18</sup>), 31.73 (C<sup>14</sup>), 31.95 (C<sup>19</sup>), 37.48 (C<sup>5</sup>), 37.89, 37.92 (C<sup>2</sup>), 38.87 (C<sup>3</sup>), 65.68, 66.22 (C<sup>1</sup>). *m/z* (EI) (%): 294 [M – H<sub>2</sub>O] (1), 279 (1), 252 (1), 223 (1), 210 (1), 197 (3), 181 (16), 169 (4), 155 (7), 140 (15), 139 (8), 138 (7), 126 (7), 112 (13), 99 (21), 97 (38), 85 (68), 69 (67), 57 (100).

**2-*n*-Butyl-4-ethyl-1-octanol (19).** Yield: 0.023 g, 7%. Elemental analysis (%) calc. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O: C, 78.43; H, 14.10; O, 7.46%. Found: C, 78.56; H, 14.03; O, 7.41%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.86 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, C<sup>14</sup>H<sub>3</sub>), 0.88–0.97 (m, 6H, C<sup>8</sup>H<sub>3</sub>, C<sup>12</sup>H<sub>3</sub>), 1.11–1.17 (m, 1H, C<sup>3</sup>HH), 1.20–1.26 (m, 1H, C<sup>3</sup>HH), 1.22–1.29 (m, 2H, C<sup>5</sup>H<sub>2</sub>), 1.22–1.37 (m, 4H, C<sup>7</sup>H<sub>2</sub>C<sup>6</sup>H<sub>2</sub>, C<sup>11</sup>H<sub>2</sub>C<sup>12</sup>H<sub>2</sub>), 1.25–1.34 (m, 2H, C<sup>13</sup>H<sub>2</sub>), 1.25–1.34 (m, 1H, C<sup>4</sup>H), 1.27–1.40 (m, 2H, C<sup>9</sup>H<sub>2</sub>), 1.49–1.59 (m, 1H, C<sup>2</sup>H), 3.49–3.61 (m, 2H, C<sup>1</sup>H<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 10.67 (C<sup>14</sup>), 14.10 (C<sup>12</sup>), 14.16 (C<sup>8</sup>), 26.09 (C<sup>13</sup>), 23.17 (C<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>11</sup>), 28.74 (C<sup>10</sup>), 28.99 (C<sup>6</sup>), 31.03 (C<sup>9</sup>), 33.09 (C<sup>5</sup>), 35.35 (C<sup>3</sup>), 36.23 (C<sup>4</sup>), 37.99 (C<sup>2</sup>), 66.07 (C<sup>1</sup>). *m/z* (EI) (%): 196 [M – H<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup> (<1), 185 (<1), 167 (2), 154 (1), 139 (7), 125 (6), 112 (14), 97 (20), 83 (37), 70 (51), 57 (100).

**1-Hexene oligomers (16).** Yield: 0.032 g, 10%.  $n = 3$ , *m/z* (EI) (%): 282 [M] (<1), 253 (2), 225 (13), 197 (<1), 183 (9), 169 (8), 155 (5), 141 (8), 127 (14), 113 (22), 99 (29), 85 (62), 71 (85), 57 (100.00).  $n = 4$ , *m/z* (EI) (%): 337 [M – C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (<1), 309 (6), 267 (4), 253 (6), 211 (4), 183 (8), 169 (7), 155 (6), 141 (9), 127 (14), 113 (20), 99 (26), 85 (50), 71 (63), 57 (100).  $n = 5$ , *m/z* (EI) (%): 393 [M – C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (5), 355 (<1), 337 (2), 295 (2), 281 (3), 267 (7), 253 (4), 225 (4), 211 (6), 197 (7), 183 (10), 169 (9), 155 (8), 141 (10), 127 (14), 113 (21), 99 (28), 85 (51), 71 (64), 57 (100).  $n = 6$ , *m/z* (EI) (%): 477 [M – C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (3), 460 (<1), 421 (1), 400 (<1), 379 (<1), 365 (1), 354 (2), 337 (3), 309 (3), 295 (3), 281 (7), 267 (8), 253 (7), 239 (5), 225 (6), 207 (16), 197 (8), 183 (11), 169 (11.5), 155 (10), 141 (11), 127 (15), 113 (21), 99 (27), 85 (52), 71 (66), 57 (100).

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