## -SUPPORTING INFORMATION-

# Scalable synthesis of salt-free quaternary ammonium carboxylate catanionic surfactants

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#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

IR spectra were obtained with a Perkin–Elmer Spectrum 100, equipped with a Specac Golden Gate Diamond ATR as a solid sample support. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on Agilent 6224 time-of-flight (TOF) mass spectrometer equipped with a double orthogonal electrospray source at atmospheric pressure ionization (ESI) coupled to an HPLC instrument. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker Avance III 500 MHz NMR (500 MHz, and 126 MHz) instrument at 296 K in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> using TMS as an internal standard. Proton and carbon spectra were referenced to the residual chloroform shifts of 7.26 ppm and 77.16 ppm, respectively.<sup>1</sup> Assignments of proton, carbon and nitrogen resonances were performed by 2D NMR techniques (<sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H *gs*-COSY, <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>13</sup>C *gs*-HSQC, <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>13</sup>C *gs*-HMBC and <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>15</sup>N *gs*-HMBC). Carbon resonances without labels belong to the chain carbons and could not have been differentiated.

#### **CHARACTERIZATION OF COMPOUNDS**



*N*-hexyl-*N*,*N*,*N*-trimethylammonium decanoate (**5a**) White solid (11.5 g, 35 %).

 $IR = 3473, 3393, 3020, 2920, 2852, 1572, 1377, 1055, 963, 643 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 3.42 - 3.35$  (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-1), 3.32 (s, 9H, NMe<sub>3</sub>), 2.14–2.06 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-2'), 1.75–1.64 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-2), 1.59–1.48 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-3'), 1.38–1.15 (m, 18H, CH<sub>2</sub>-chain), 0.92–0.78 (m, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>-10' and CH<sub>3</sub>-6).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 179.8 (COO), 66.9 (30.21), 53.2 (NMe<sub>3</sub>), 39.4 (C-2'), 32.0, 31.4, 30.2, 29.9, 29.8, 29.50, 27.3, 26.0, 23.2, 22.8, 22.5, 14.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>-6/CH<sub>3</sub>-10'), 14.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>-6/CH<sub>3</sub>-10').

<sup>15</sup>N NMR (51 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 49.5 (NMe<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI+): calcd. for  $C_9H_{22}N^+$  [M<sup>+</sup>] 144.1747, found 144.1749.

HRMS (ESI–): calcd. for  $C_{10}H_{19}O_2^-$  [M<sup>-</sup>] 171.1391, found 171.1389.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Gottlieb, H. E.; Kotlyar, V.; Nudelman, A., J. Org. Chem. 1997, 62, 7512–7515.

*N*-octyl-*N*,*N*,*N*-trimethylammonium decanoate (**5b**)

White solid (14.7 g, 63 %).

 $IR = 3317, 3119, 3032, 2919, 2851, 1657, 1569, 1380, 972, 756 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 3.43 - 3.38$  (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-1), 3.38 - 3.31 (m, 9H, NMe<sub>3</sub>), 2.19 - 2.05 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-2'), 1.76-1.61 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-2), 1.60-1.49 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-3'), 1.41-1.13 (m, 22H, CH<sub>2</sub>-chain), 0.89-0.79 (m, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>-8 and CH<sub>3</sub>-10).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 179.6 (COO), 66.9 (C-1), 53.2 (NMe<sub>3</sub>), 39.2 (C-2'), 32.0, 31.7, 30.2, 29.8, 29.8, 29.5, 29.3, 29.1, 27.3 (C-3'), 26.4, 23.2 (C-2), 22.8, 22.7, 14.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>-8/CH<sub>3</sub>-10'), 14.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>-8/CH<sub>3</sub>-10').

<sup>15</sup>N NMR (51 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 49.7 (NMe<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI+): calcd. for  $C_{11}H_{26}N^+$  [M<sup>+</sup>] 172.2060, found 172.2057.

HRMS (ESI-): calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> [M<sup>-</sup>] 171.1391, found 171.1386.



*N*-decyl-*N*,*N*,*N*-trimethylammonium decanoate (**5c**)

White solid (25.3 g, 72 %).

 $IR = 3429, 3348, 3195, 3119, 3032, 2916, 2850, 1656, 1566, 1387 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 3.42–3.35 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-1), 3.32 (s, 9H, NMe<sub>3</sub>), 2.16–2.07 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-2'), 1.74–1.63 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-2), 1.54 (p, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-3'), 1.38–1.14 (m, 26H, CH<sub>2</sub>-chain), 0.91–0.79 (m, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>-10 and , CH<sub>3</sub>-10').

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 179.6 (COO), 66.9 (C-1), 53.2 (NMe<sub>3</sub>), 39.0 (C-2'), 32.0, 31.9, 30.2, 29.9, 29.8, 29.54, 29.51, 29.4, 27.2 (C-3'), 26.4, 23.3 (C-2), 22.79, 22.75, 14.22 (CH<sub>3</sub>-10/CH<sub>3</sub>-10'), 14.19 (CH<sub>3</sub>-10/CH<sub>3</sub>-10').

<sup>15</sup>N NMR (51 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 49.5 (NMe<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI+): calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M<sup>+</sup>] 200.2373, found 172.2373.

HRMS (ESI–): calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> [M<sup>-</sup>] 171.1391, found 171.1388.



*N*-octyl-*N*,*N*,*N*-trimethylammonium octanoate (**5d**) White solid (10.8 g, 28 %).

IR = 3510, 3022, 2919, 2851, 1657, 1573, 1378, 974, 918, 773 cm<sup>-1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 3.43–3.36 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-1), 3.35–3.25 (m, 9H, NMe<sub>3</sub>), 2.16–2.05 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-2'), 1.74–1.61 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-2), 1.59–1.46 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-3'), 1.35–1.12 (m, 14H, CH<sub>2</sub>-chain), 0.89–0.75 (m, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>-8 and CH<sub>3</sub>-8').

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 179.5$  (COO), 66.8 (C-1), 53.1 (NMe<sub>3</sub>), 39.1 (C-2'), 32.0, 31.7, 30.1, 29.5, 29.3, 29.1, 27.2 (C-3'), 26.3, 23.2 (C-2), 22.8, 22.6, 14.2(CH<sub>3</sub>-8/CH<sub>3</sub>-8'), 14.1(CH<sub>3</sub>-8/CH<sub>3</sub>-8').

<sup>15</sup>N NMR (51 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 49.4 (NMe<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI+): calcd. for  $C_{11}H_{26}N^+$  [M<sup>+</sup>] 172.2060, found 172.2054. HRMS (ESI-): calcd. for  $C_8H_{15}O_2^-$  [M<sup>-</sup>] 143.1078, found 143.1076.



*N*-decyl-*N*,*N*,*N*-trimethylammonium octanoate (**5e**) White solid (16.7 g, 54 %). IR = 3464, 3385, 3021, 2919, 2851, 1572, 1380, 915, 772, 722 cm<sup>-1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 3.45–3.39 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-1), 3.40–3.35 (m, 9H, NMe<sub>3</sub>), 2.23–2.11 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-2'), 1.79–1.67 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-2), 1.65–1.53 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-3), 1.42–1.18 (m, 22H, CH<sub>2</sub>-chain), 0.93–0.81 (m, 6H, , CH<sub>3</sub>-10 and , CH<sub>3</sub>-8').

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 180.0 (COO), 67.1 (C-1), 53.4 (NMe<sub>3</sub>), 39.3 (C-2'), 32.1, 32.0, 30.2, 29.6, 29.53, 29.49, 29.36, 29.34, 27.3 (C-3'), 26.4, 23.3 (C-2'), 22.9, 22.8, 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>-10/CH<sub>3</sub>-8'), 14.2(CH<sub>3</sub>-10/CH<sub>3</sub>-8').

<sup>15</sup>N NMR (51 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 49.7 (NMe<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI+): calcd. for  $C_{13}H_{30}N^+$  [M<sup>+</sup>] 200.2373, found 172.2375.

HRMS (ESI–): calcd. for  $C_8H_{15}O_2^-$  [M<sup>-</sup>] 143.1078, found 143.1073.

*N*-decyl-*N*,*N*,*N*-trimethylammonium hexanoate (**5f**) White solid (2.2 g, 13 %).

IR = 3359, 3021, 2922, 2854, 1572, 1377, 973, 918, 766, 644 cm<sup>-1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 3.45–3.37 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-1), 3.38–3.30 (m, 9H, NMe<sub>3</sub>), 2.21–2.03 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-2'), 1.76–1.61 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-2), 1.61–1.50 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-3'), 1.38–1.15 (m, 18H, CH<sub>2</sub>-chain), 0.92–0.78 (m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>-8 and CH<sub>2</sub>-).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 179.6 (COO), 66.9 (C-1), 53.2 (NMe<sub>3</sub>), 39.2 (C-2'), 32.4, 31.9, 29.50, 29.46, 29.3, 26.9 (3'), 26.4, 23.3 (C-2), 22.8, 22.7, 14.3(CH<sub>3</sub>-10/CH<sub>3</sub>-6'), 14.2(CH<sub>3</sub>-10/CH<sub>3</sub>-6').

<sup>15</sup>N NMR (51 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 49.8 (NMe<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI+): calcd. for  $C_{13}H_{30}N^+$  [M<sup>+</sup>] 200.2373, found 200.2370.

HRMS (ESI-): calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> [M<sup>-</sup>] 171.1391, found 171.1386.

# THERMOGRAVIMETRIC ANALYSIS (TG) AND DIFFERENTIAL SCANNING CALORIMETRY (DSC)

Thermogravimetric (TG) measurements were performed on a Mettler Toledo TGA/DSC1 Instrument in the temperature range from 25 to 400 °C under dynamic air flow (100 cm<sup>3</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>) with a heating rate of 5 K min<sup>-1</sup>. Approximately 3-5 mg of sample was weighed into a 150  $\mu$ L platinum crucible and the baseline was subtracted. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) measurements were performed separately on a Mettler Toledo DSC 1 Instrument in 40  $\mu$ L aluminium crucibles under the same conditions.



**Figure S1.** TG (dashed lines) and DSC (solid lines) curves in the temperature range between 25 and 400 °C for synthesized compounds according to procedure A.



**Figure S2.** TG (dashed lines) and DSC (solid lines) curves in the temperature range between 25 and 400 °C for synthesized compounds according to procedure B.

# **IR SPECTRA**



Figure S3. IR spectra of synthesized compounds according to procedure B.

### **COPIES OF NMR SPECTRA**











