

Supplementary information

Aligned macrocycle pores in ultrathin films for accurate molecular sieving

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Supplementary Information

Aligned macrocycle pores in ultrathin films for accurate molecular sieving

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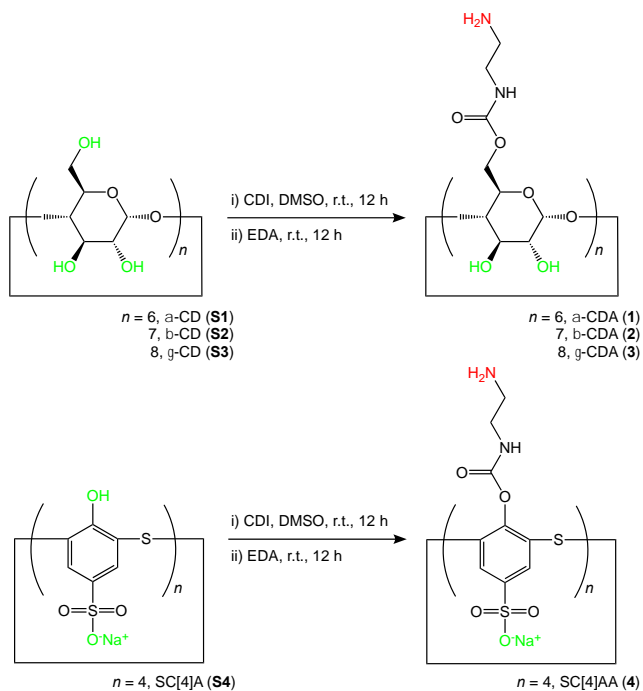
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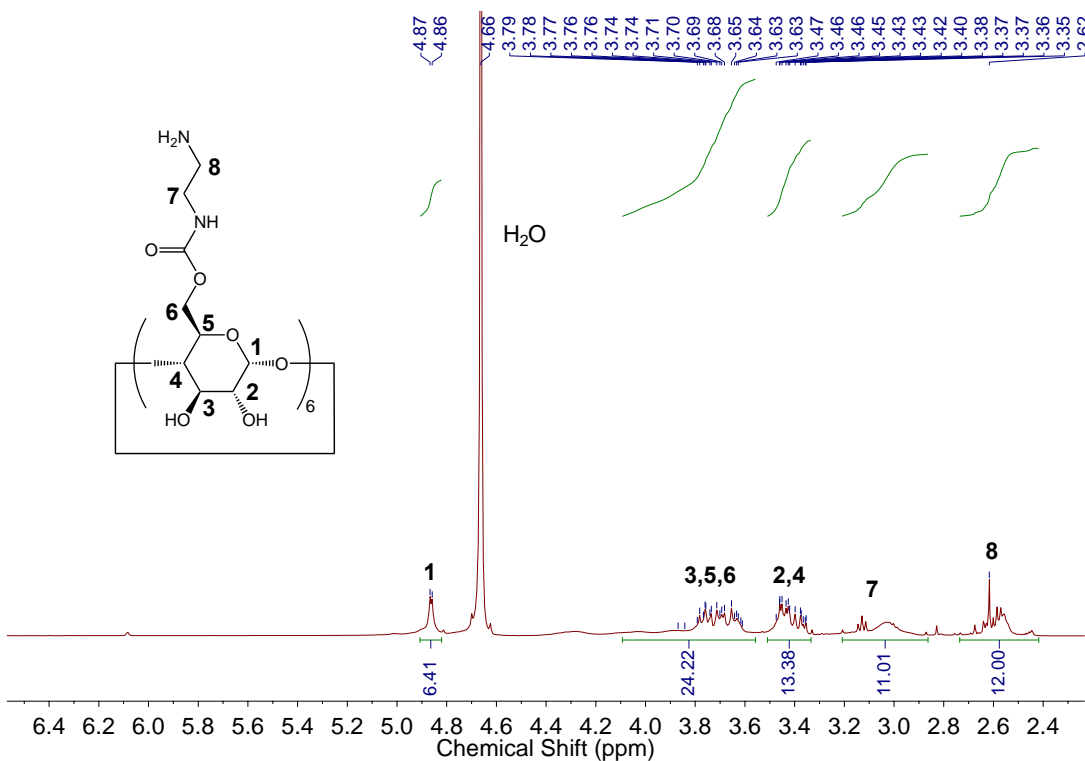
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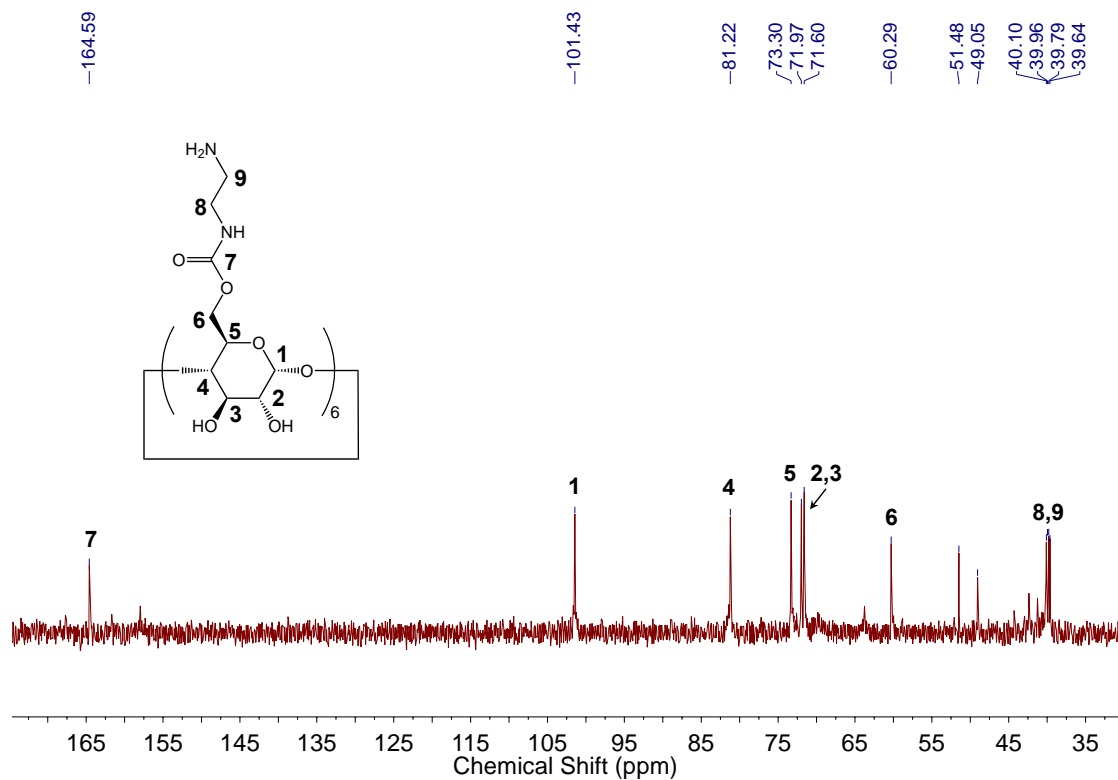
Supplementary Figure 1 | Synthesis of amino-functionalised macrocyclic derivatives including α -CDA (1), β -CDA (2), γ -CDA (3), and SC[4]AA (4).

NMR spectra

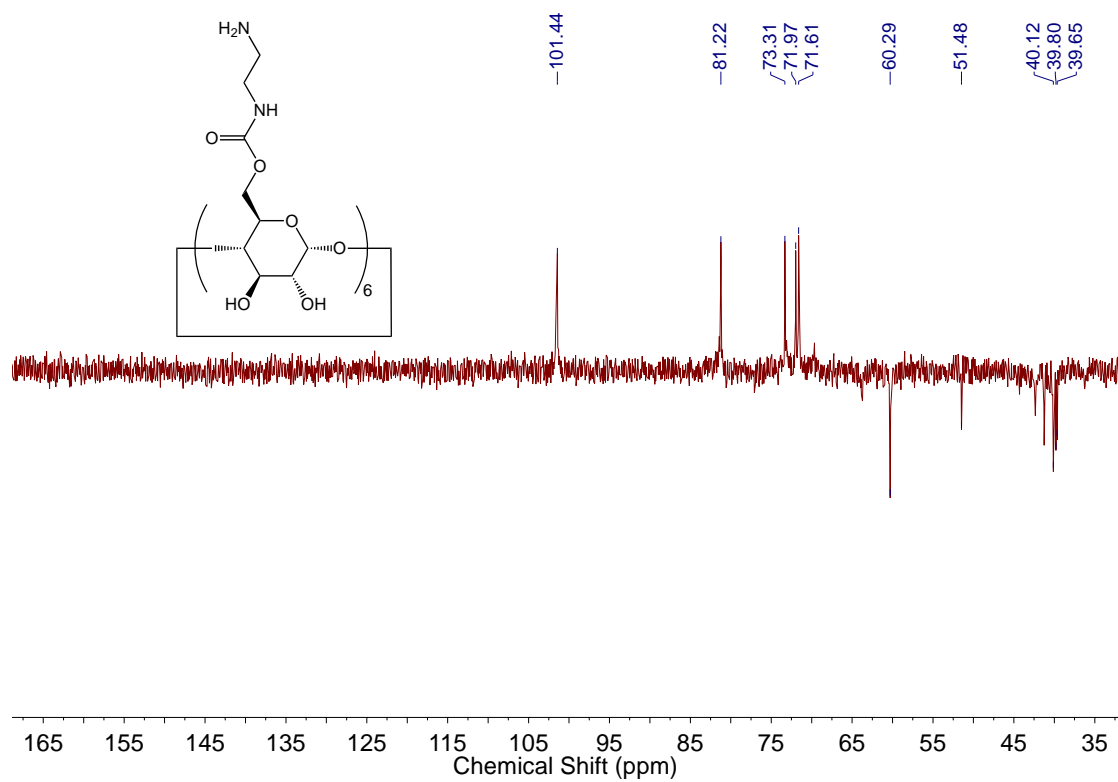


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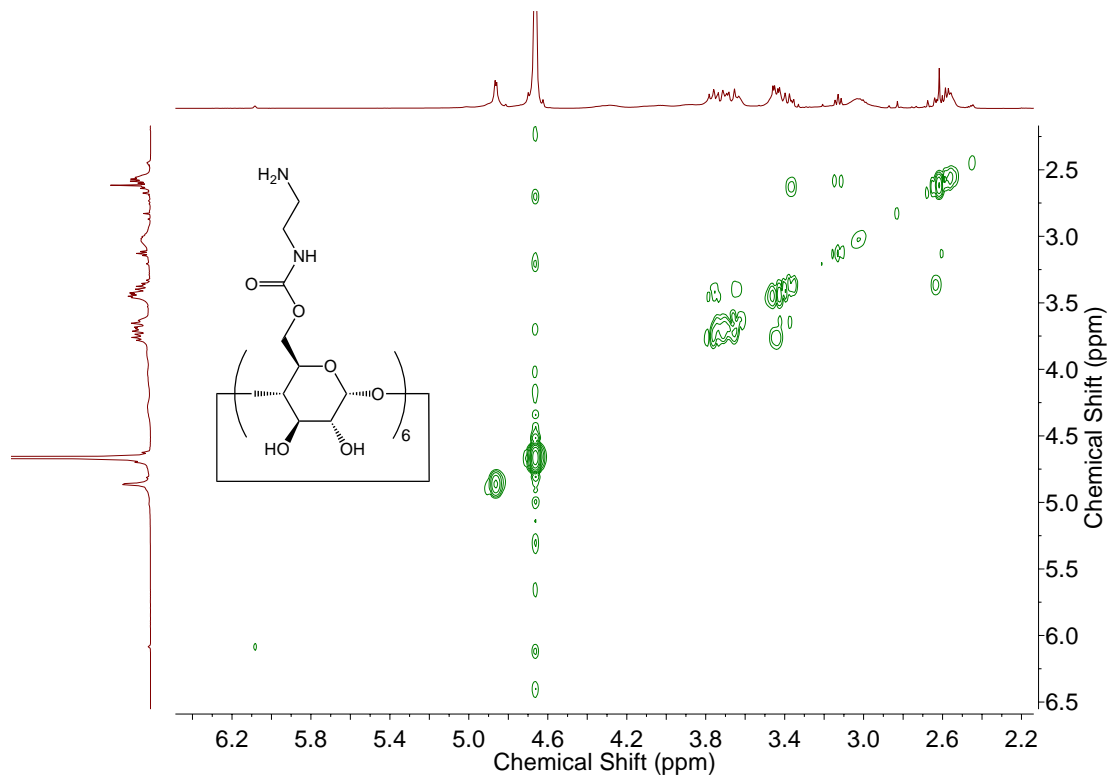
Supplementary Figure 2 | ¹H NMR spectrum of α -CDA (1) in D₂O.



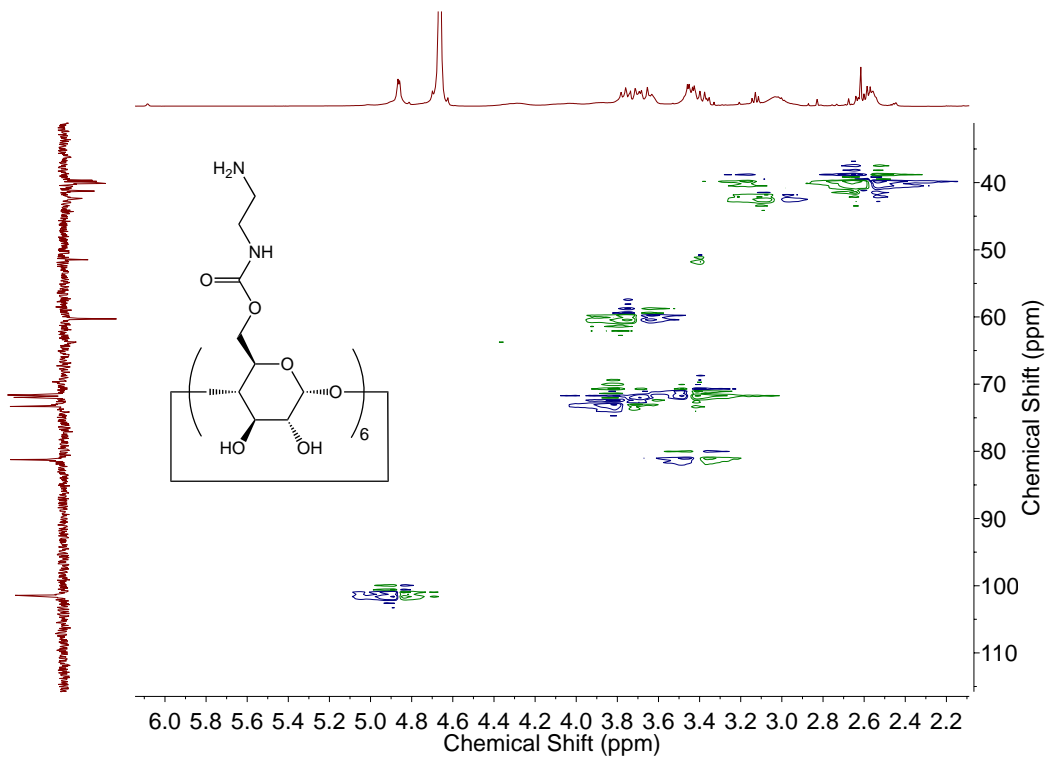
Supplementary Figure 3 | ^{13}C NMR spectrum of α -CDA (1) in D_2O .



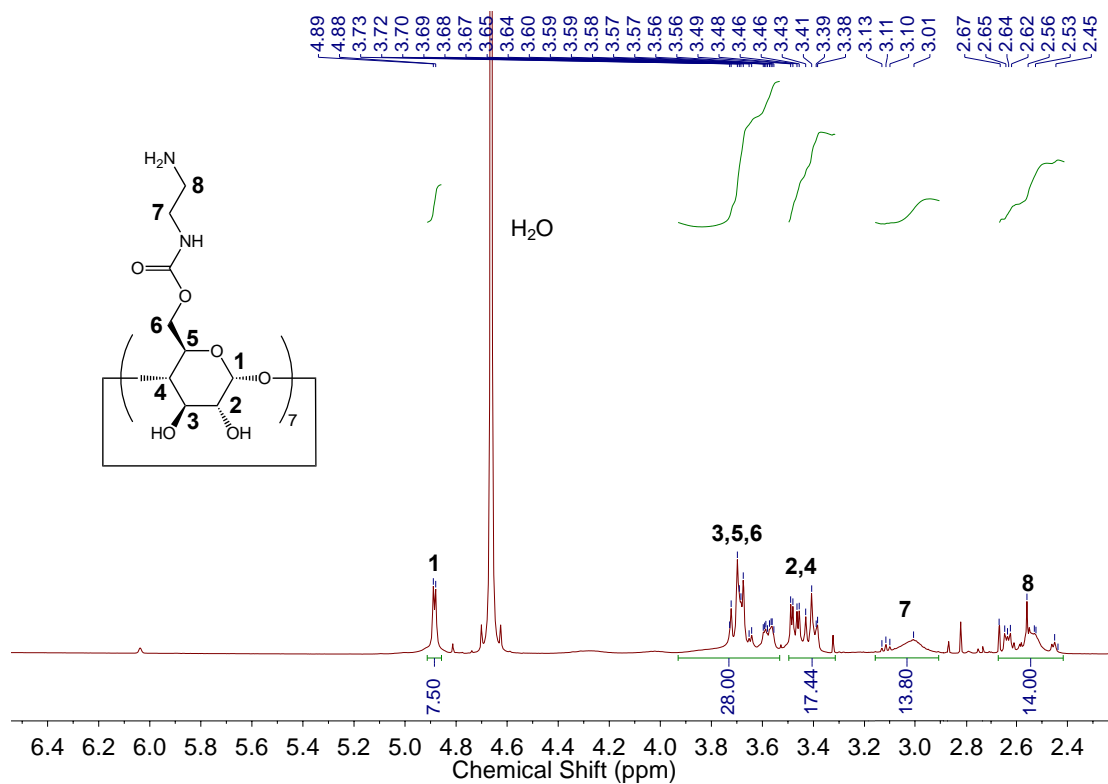
Supplementary Figure 4 | ^{13}C DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of α -CDA (1) in D_2O .



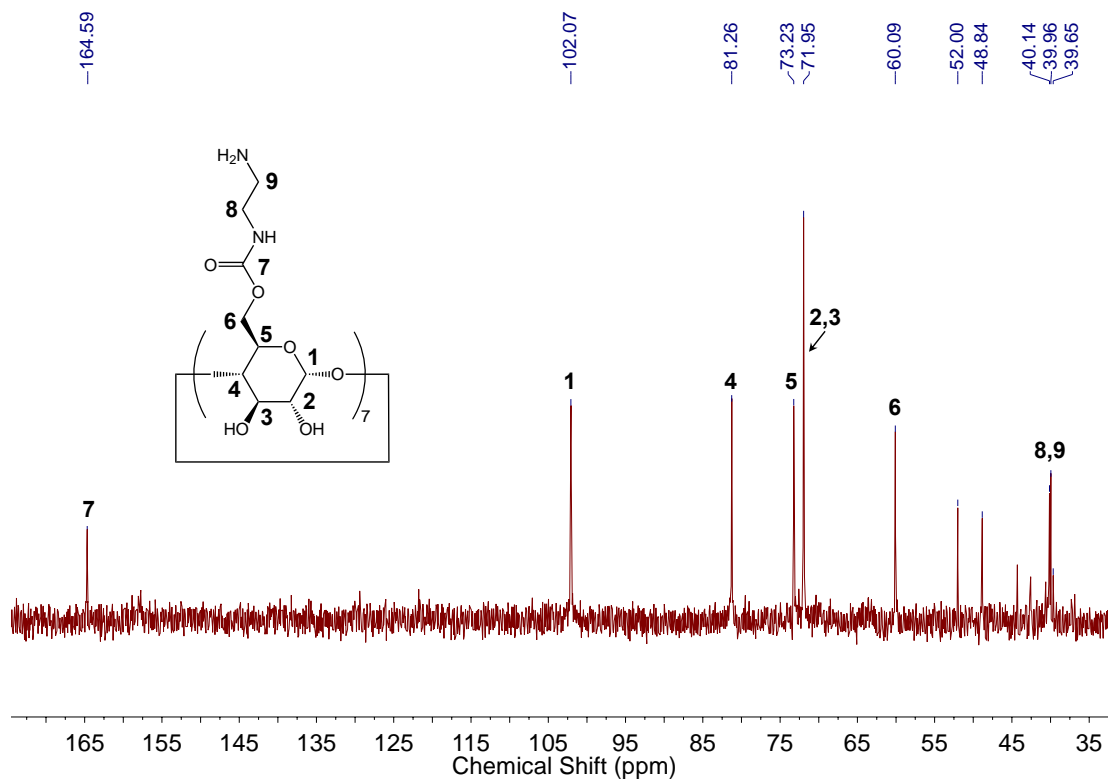
Supplementary Figure 5 | 2D ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of α -CDA (1) in D_2O .



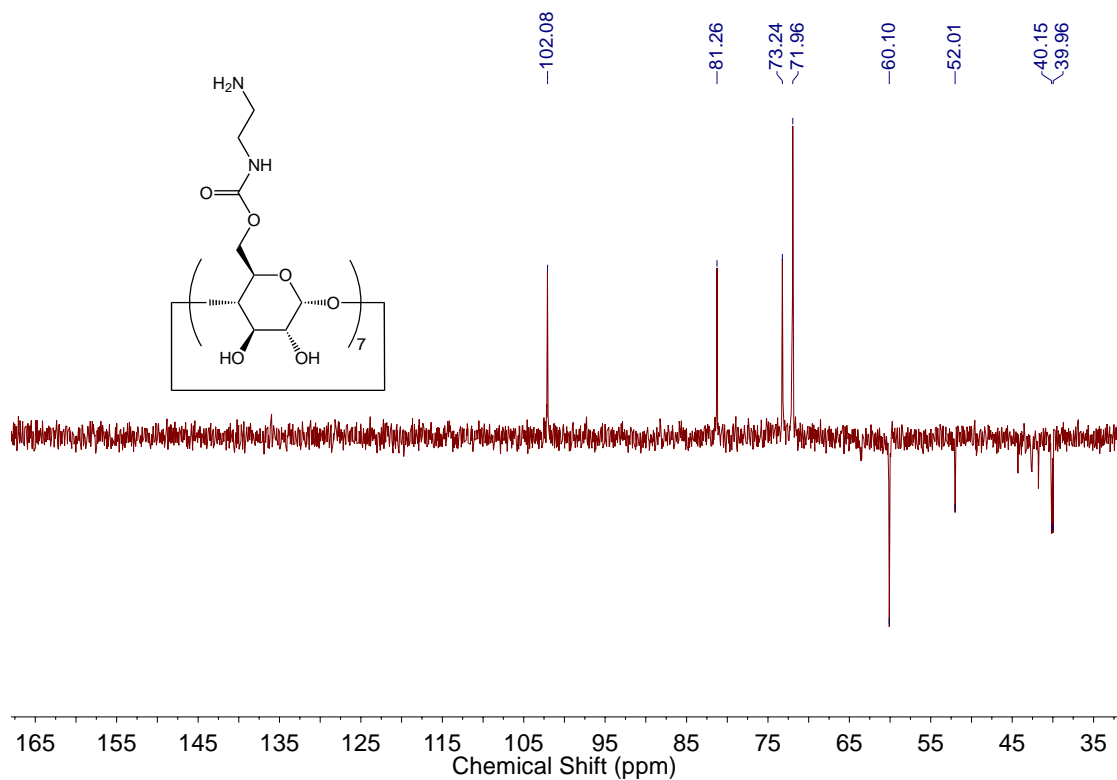
Supplementary Figure 6 | 2D ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC NMR spectrum of α -CDA (1) in D_2O .



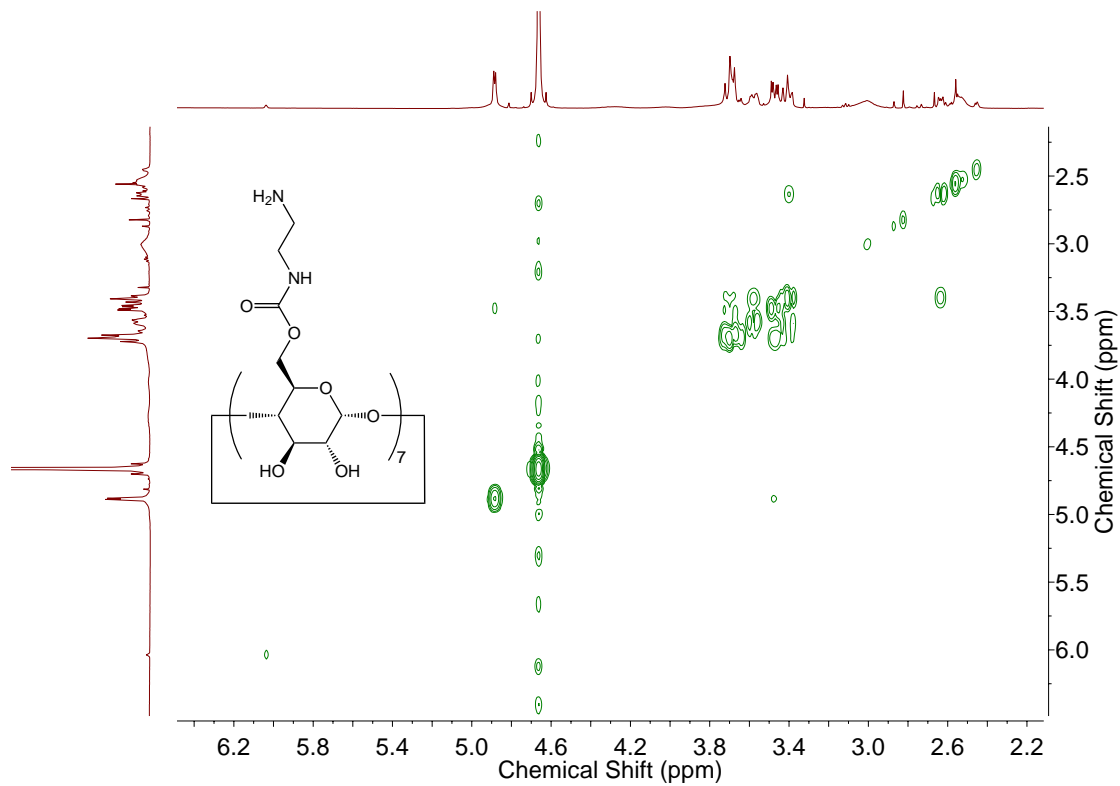
Supplementary Figure 7 | ¹H NMR spectrum of β -CDA (2) in D₂O.



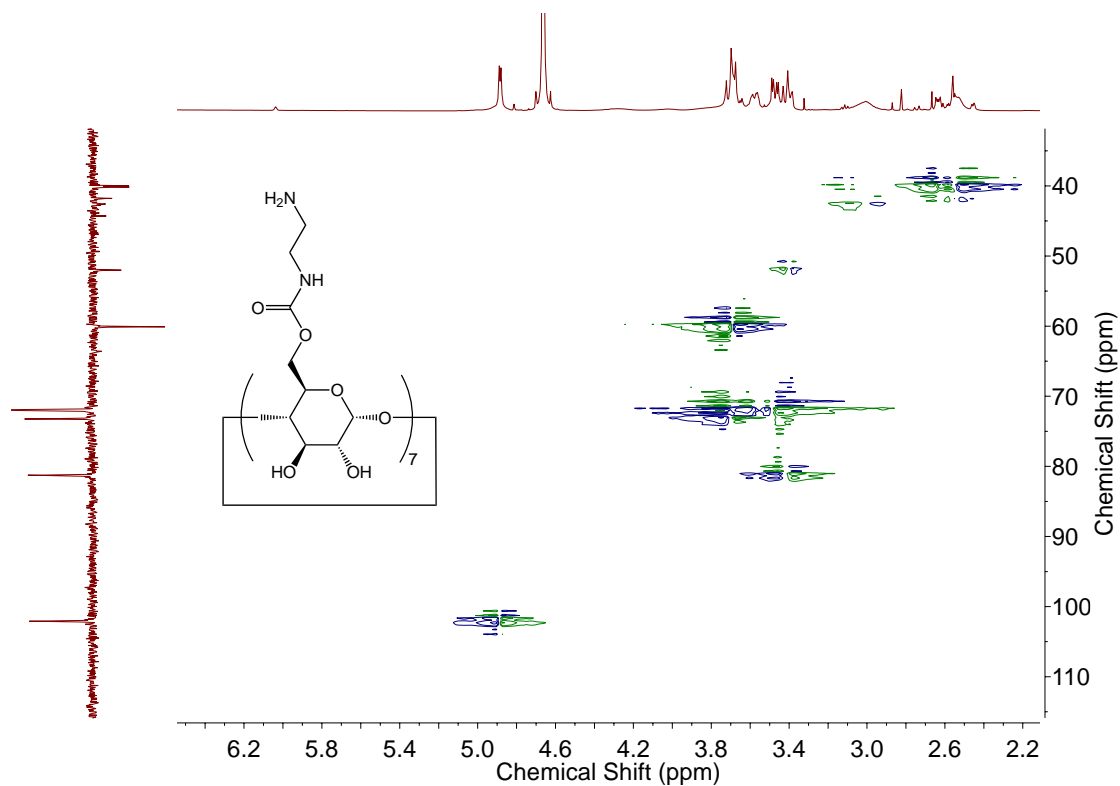
Supplementary Figure 8 | ¹³C NMR spectrum of β -CDA (2) in D₂O.



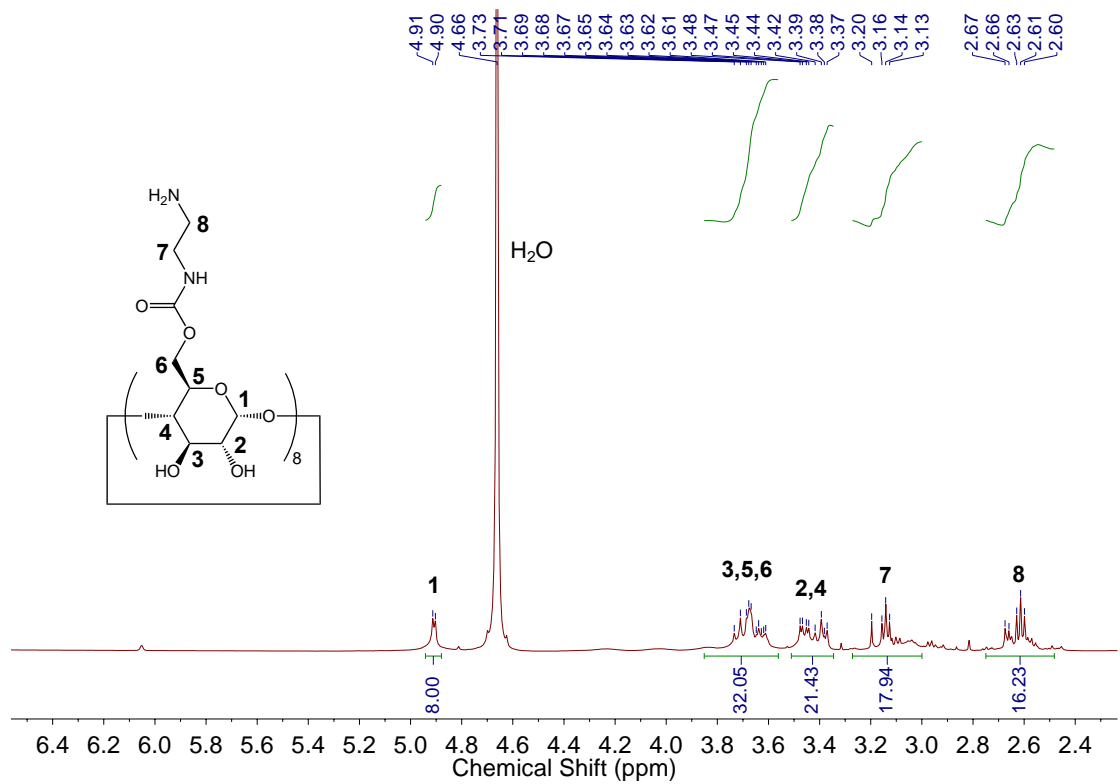
Supplementary Figure 9 | ^{13}C DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of β -CDA (2) in D_2O .



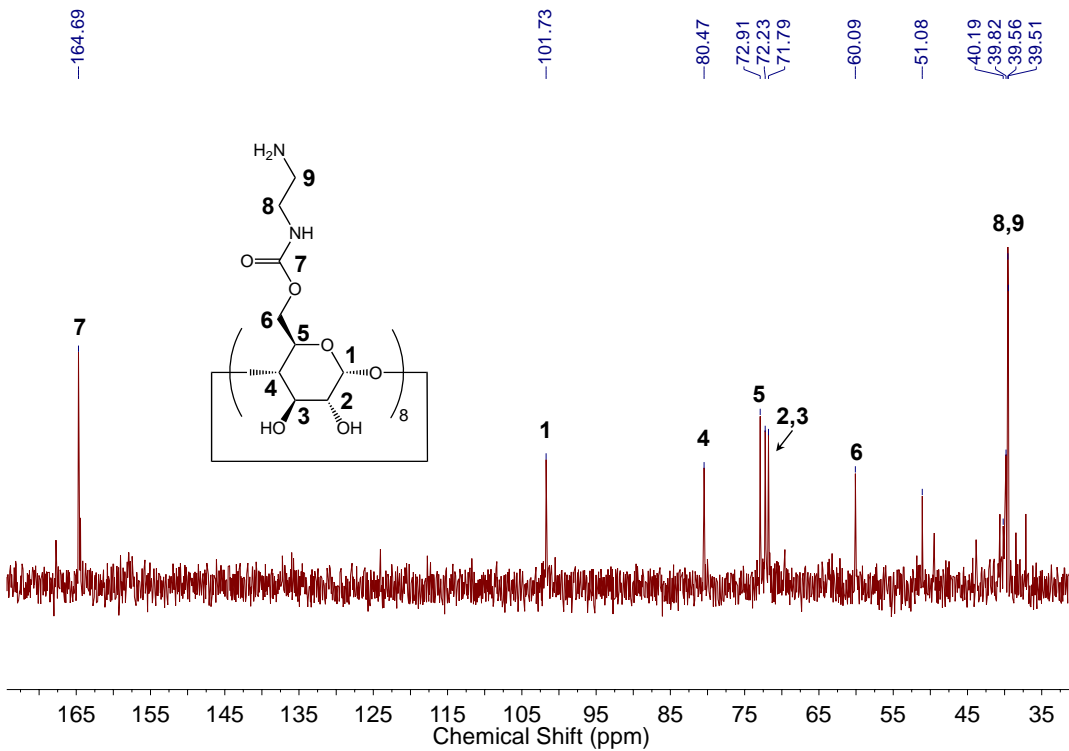
Supplementary Figure 10 | $^2\text{D } ^1\text{H}-^1\text{H}$ COSY NMR spectrum of β -CDA (2) in D_2O .



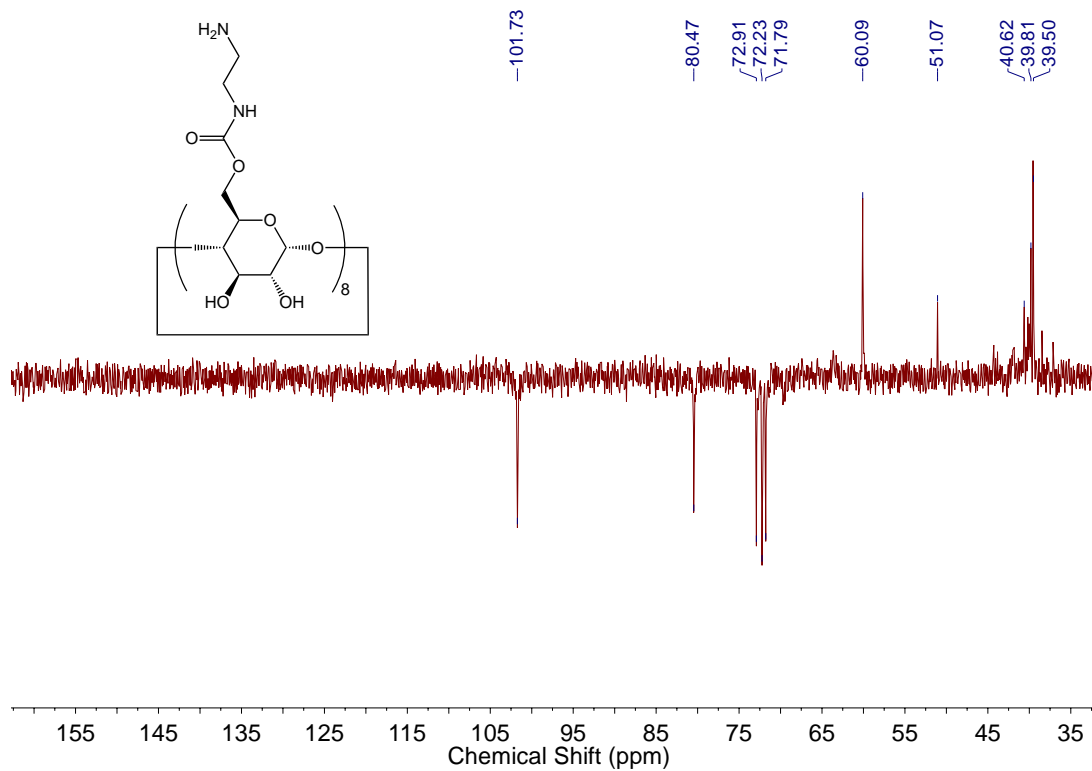
Supplementary Figure 11 | 2D ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC NMR spectrum of β -CDA (2) in D_2O .



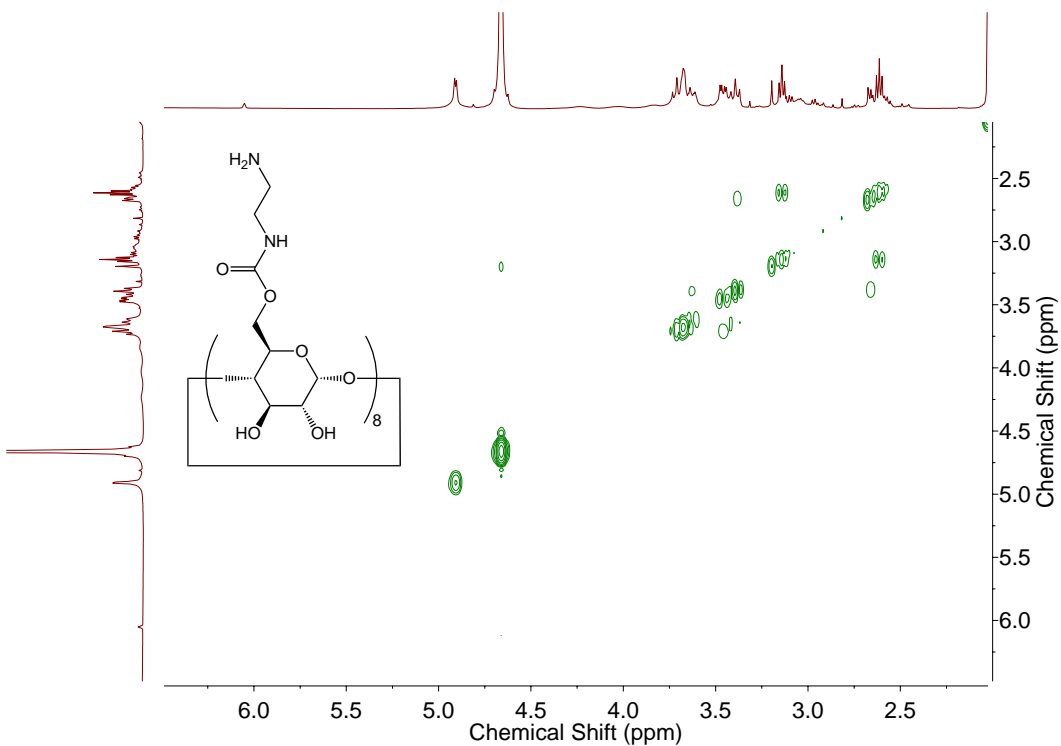
Supplementary Figure 12 | ^1H NMR spectrum of γ -CDA (3) in D_2O .



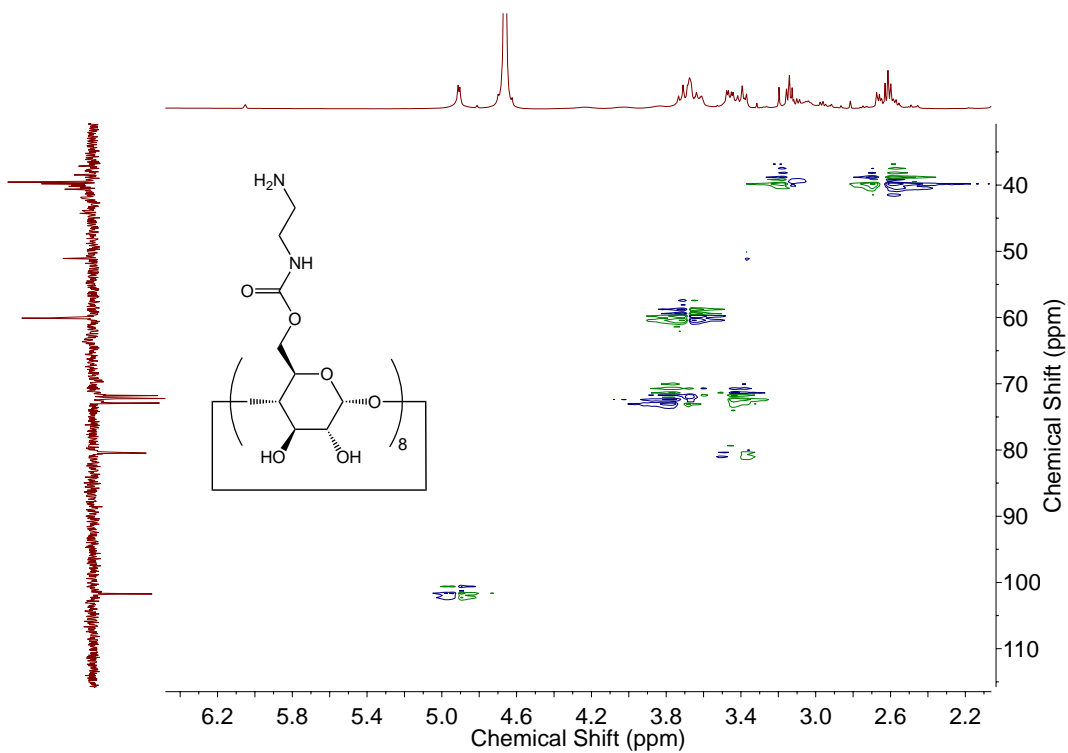
Supplementary Figure 13 | ^{13}C NMR spectrum of γ -CDA (3) in D_2O .



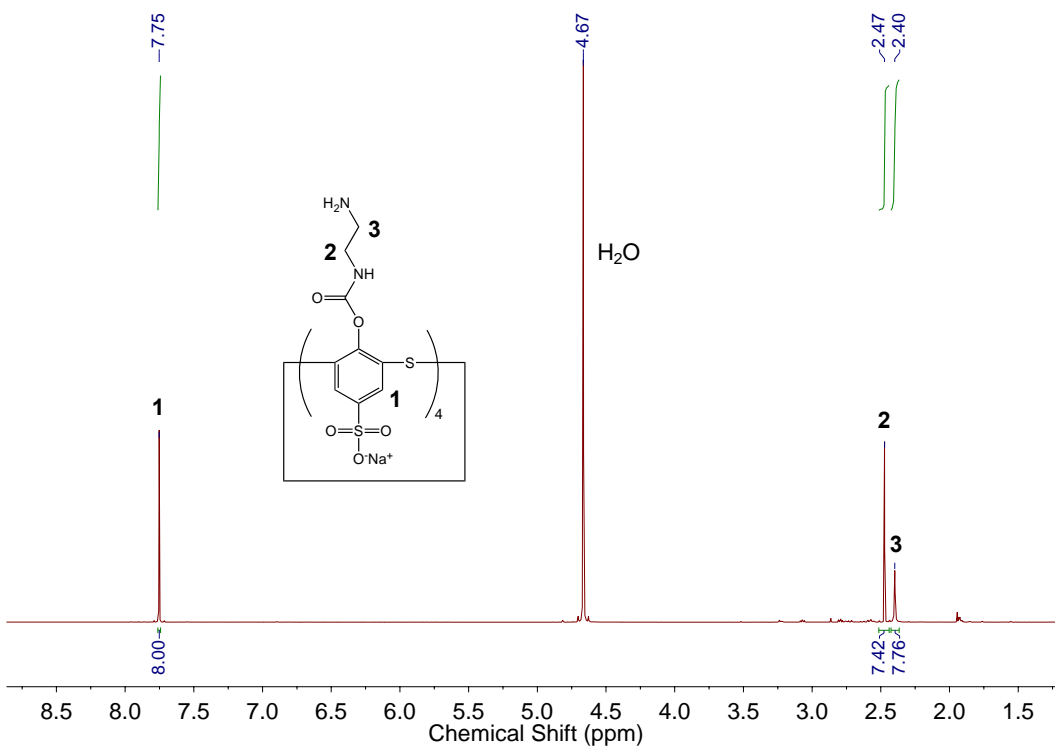
Supplementary Figure 14 | ^{13}C DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of γ -CDA (3) in D_2O .



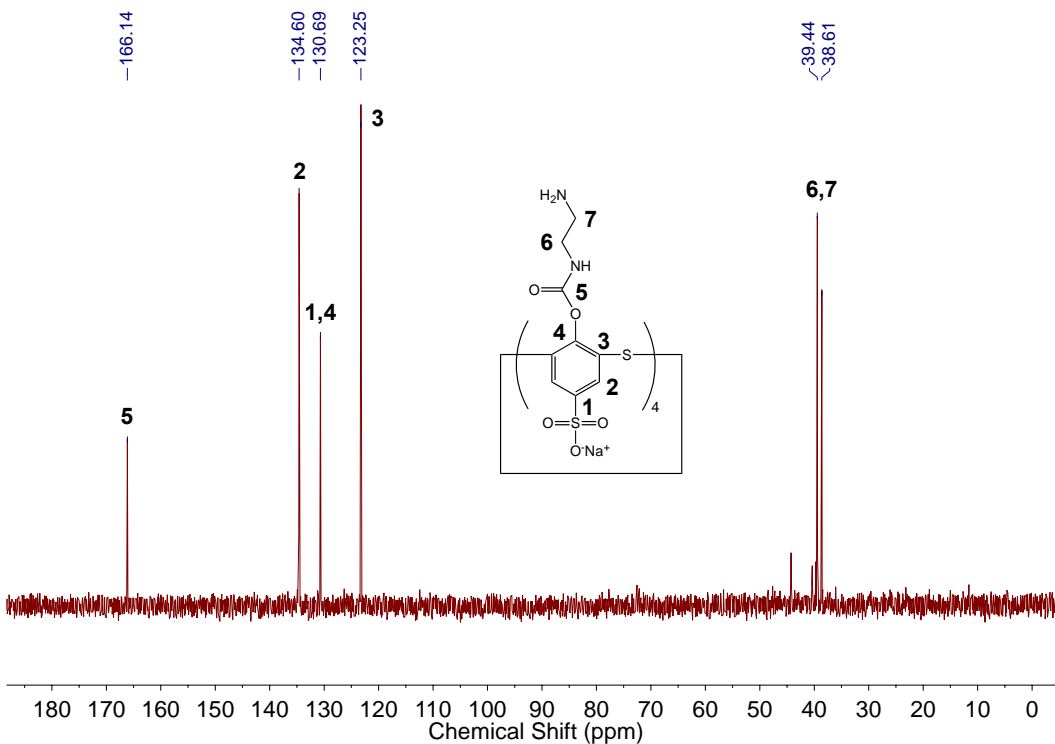
Supplementary Figure 15 | 2D ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of γ -CDA (3) in D_2O .



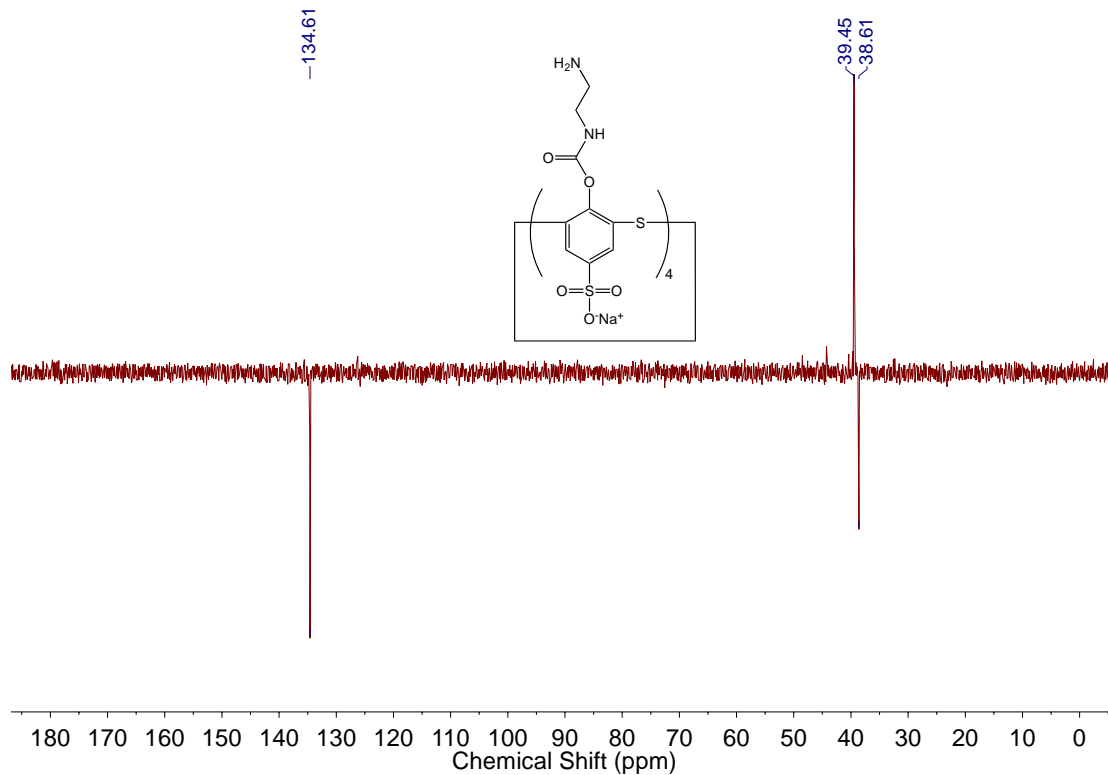
Supplementary Figure 16 | 2D ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC NMR spectrum of γ -CDA (3) in D_2O .



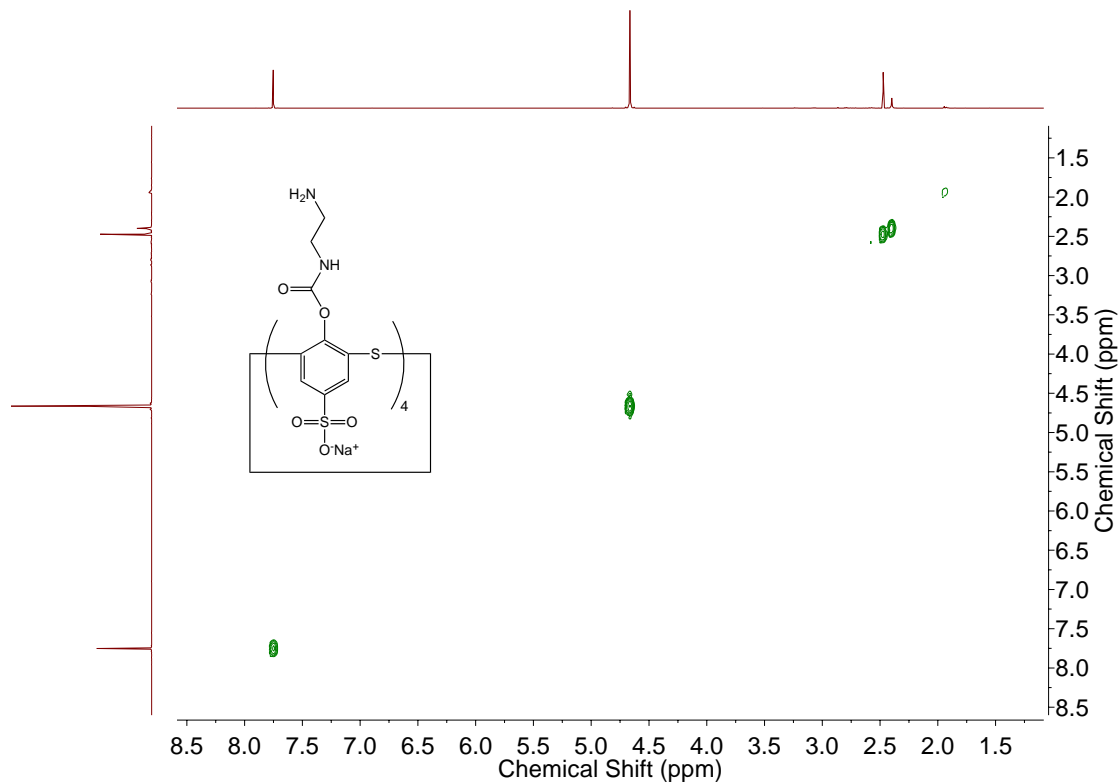
Supplementary Figure 17 | ^1H NMR spectrum of SC[4]AA (4) in D_2O .



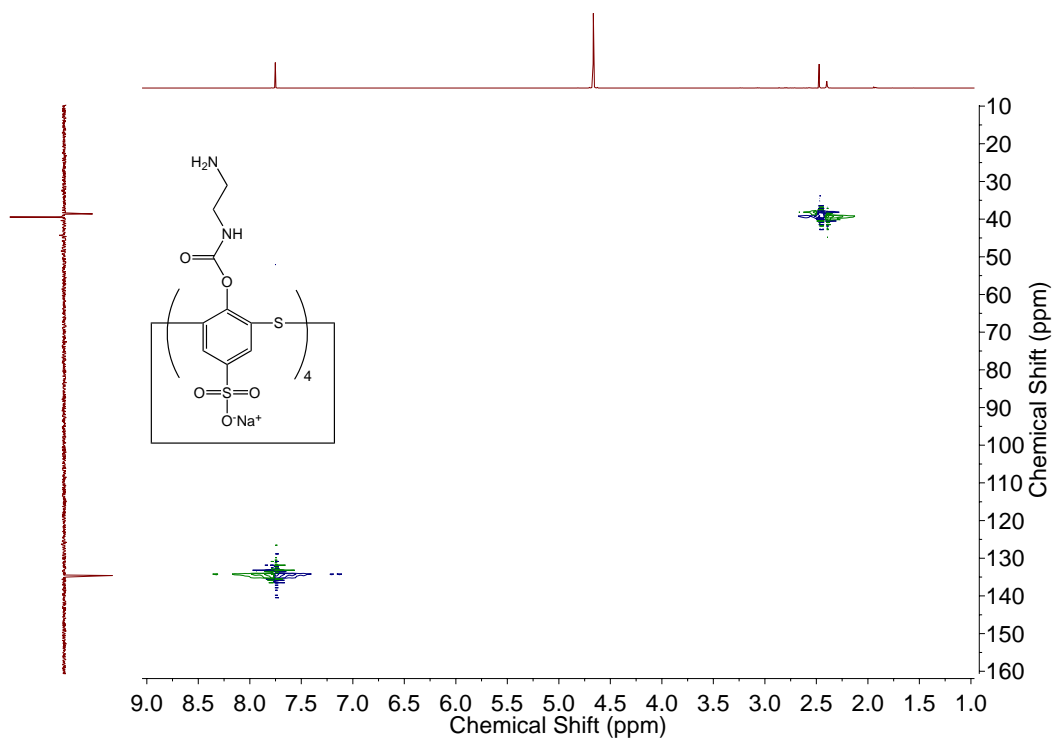
Supplementary Figure 18 | ^{13}C NMR spectrum of SC[4]AA (4) in D_2O .



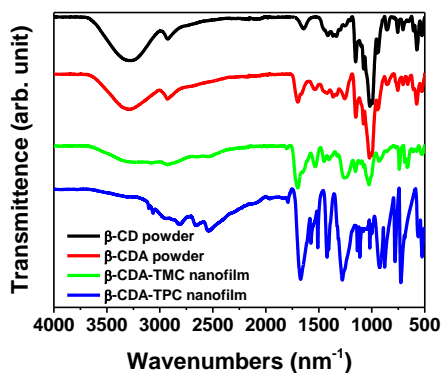
Supplementary Figure 19 | ^{13}C DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of SC[4]AA (4) in D_2O .



Supplementary Figure 20 | $2\text{D } ^1\text{H}-^1\text{H}$ COSY NMR spectrum of SC[4]AA (4) in D_2O .



Supplementary Figure 21 | 2D ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC NMR spectrum of SC[4]AA (4) in D_2O .

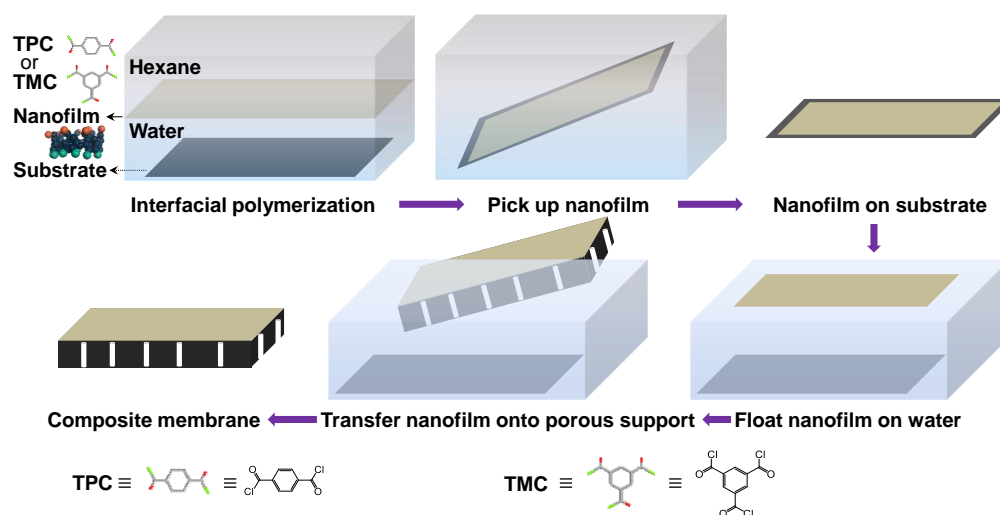


Supplementary Figure 22 | Fourier-transform infrared (FT-IR) spectra of the precursors, amino derivatives, and the resulting nanofilms. These include unfunctionalised β -cyclodextrin (β -CD) powder, synthesized amino-functionalised β -cyclodextrin (β -CDA) powder, and resulting nanofilms (β -CDA-TMC, and β -CDA-TPC) made from 0.1 wt.% β -CDA with 0.1 wt.% trimesoyl chloride (TMC) and 0.1 wt.% terephthaloyl chloride (TPC) respectively.

Supplementary Table 1. Functional groups analysed from FT-IR for unfunctionalised β -cyclodextrin (β -CD) powder, amino-functionalised β -cyclodextrin (β -CDA) powder, β -CDA-TMC nanofilm, and β -CDA-TPC nanofilm.

Wavenumbers (cm^{-1}) –functional group	β -CD powder	β -CDA powder	β -CDA-TMC nanofilm	β -CDA-TPC nanofilm
3290-(O-H) alcohol	√	√	√	√
2930-(C-H) alkane	√	√	√	√
1800-(C=O) carboxylic acid	×	×	√	√
1700-(C=O) amide	×	√	√	√
1610-(C=C) conjugated alkene	×	×	√	√
1530-(C-N) amide	×	√	√	√
1020-(C-O-C) ether	√	√	√	√

√ indicates the presence of the functional group. × indicates the absence of the functional group.



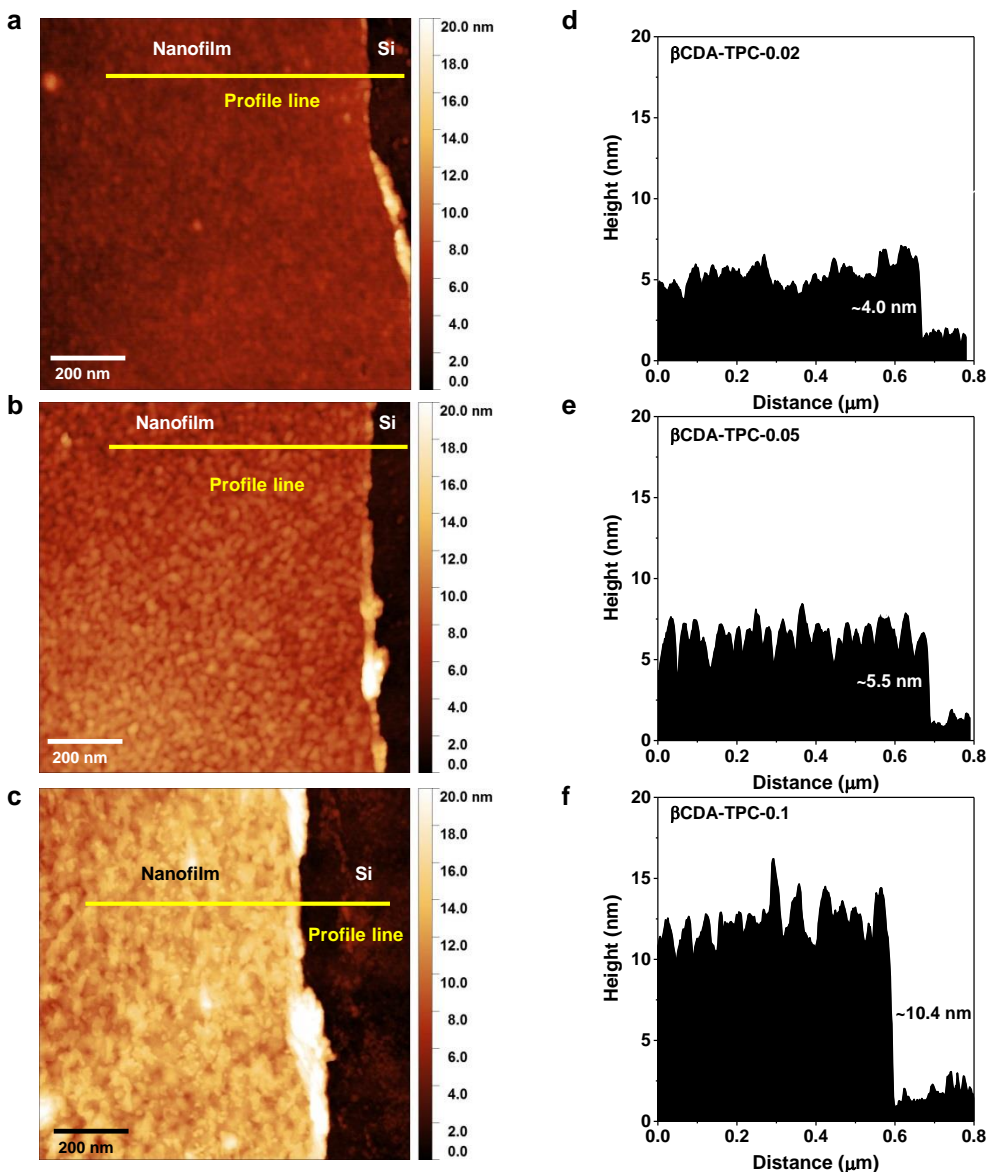
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Supplementary Figure 23 | Schematic of interfacial polymerisation at a free interface. The reaction occurs between an aqueous phase containing amino-functionalised macrocycles and hexane phase containing terephthaloyl chloride (TPC) or trimesoyl chloride (TMC).



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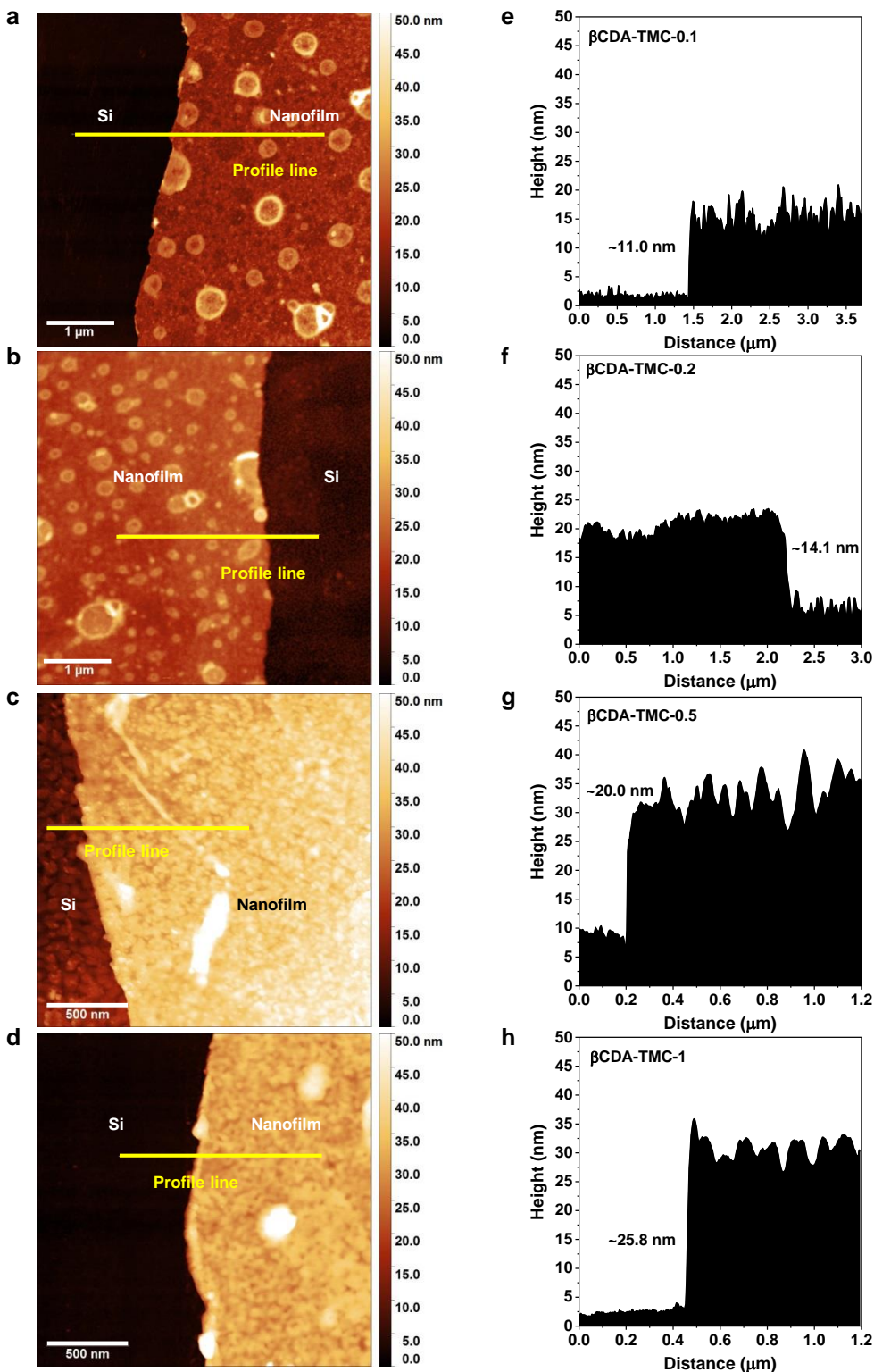
Supplementary Figure 24 | Photograph of the free interface between an aqueous phase containing unfunctionalised β -cyclodextrin and a hexane phase containing terephthaloyl chloride (TPC). No film was observed at the interface for this combination.



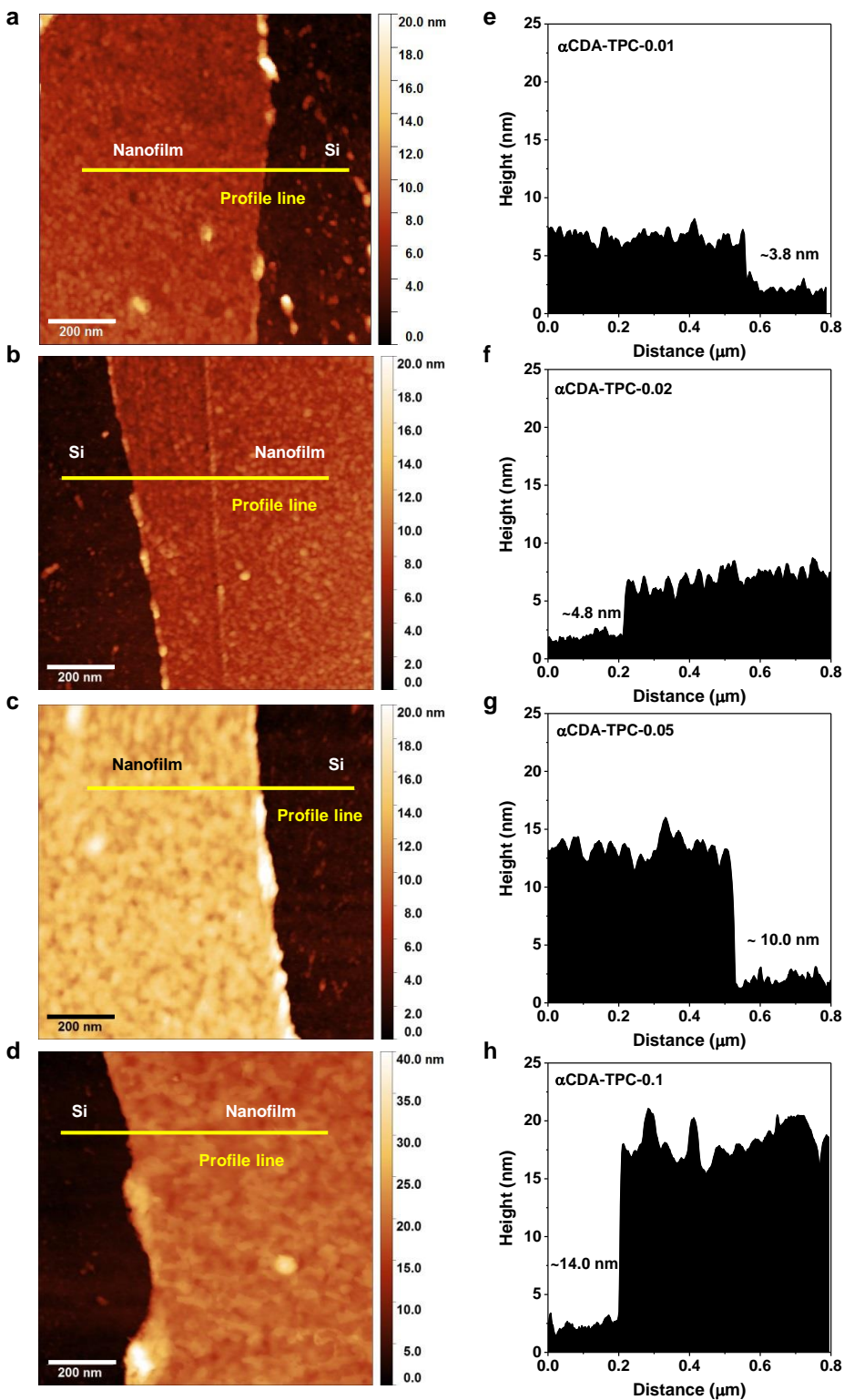
Supplementary Figure 25 | Atomic force microscopy (AFM) height images of the nanofilms.

They were made from **a**, 0.02 wt.%, **b**, 0.05 wt.%, and **c**, 0.1 wt.% amino-functionalised β -cyclodextrin (β -CDA) and 0.1 wt.% terephthaloyl chloride (TPC) reacted for 1 min. **d-f**, Height along profile lines for respective nanofilms. The nanofilms were fabricated at the free interface and transferred onto silicon (Si) wafers.

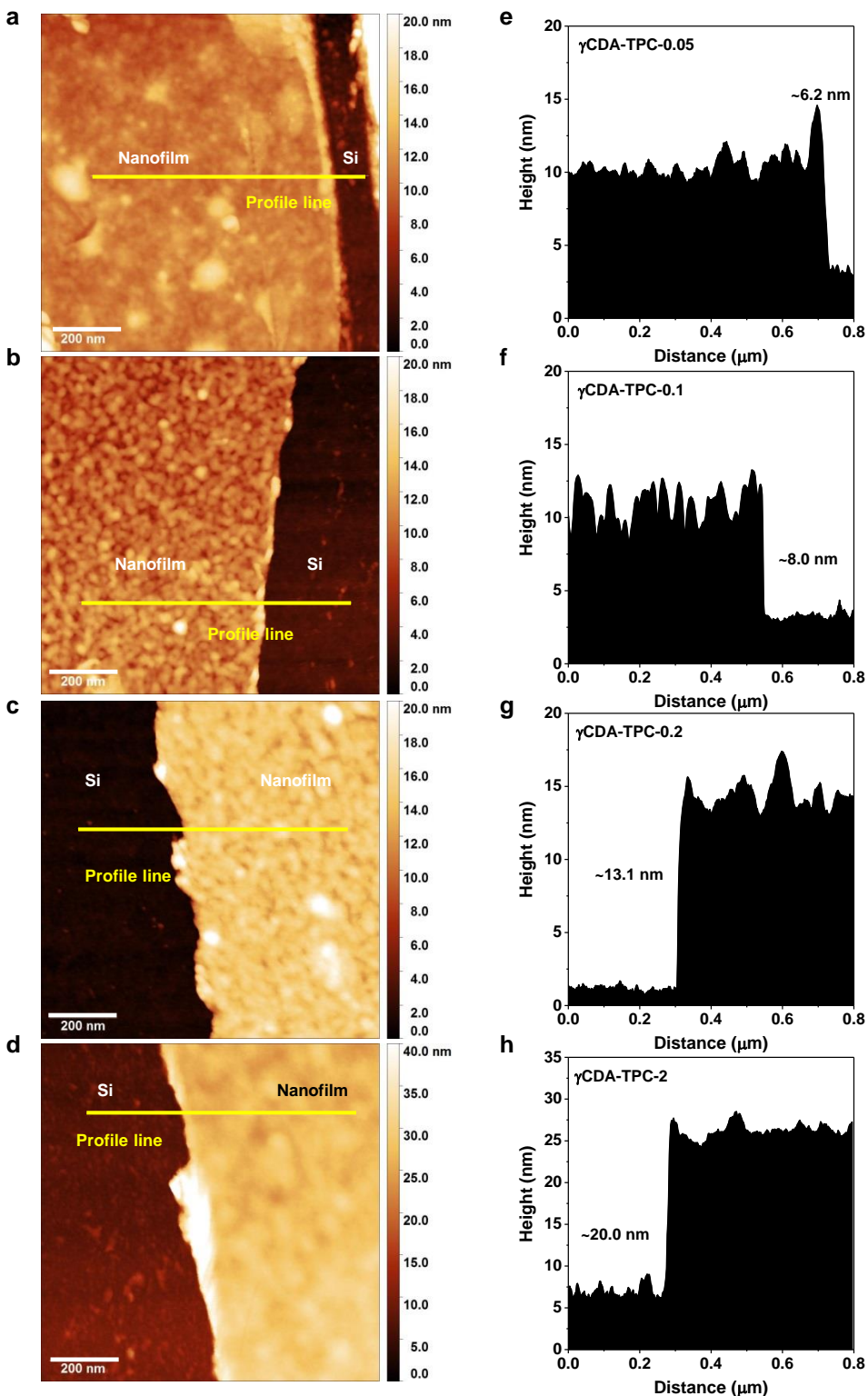
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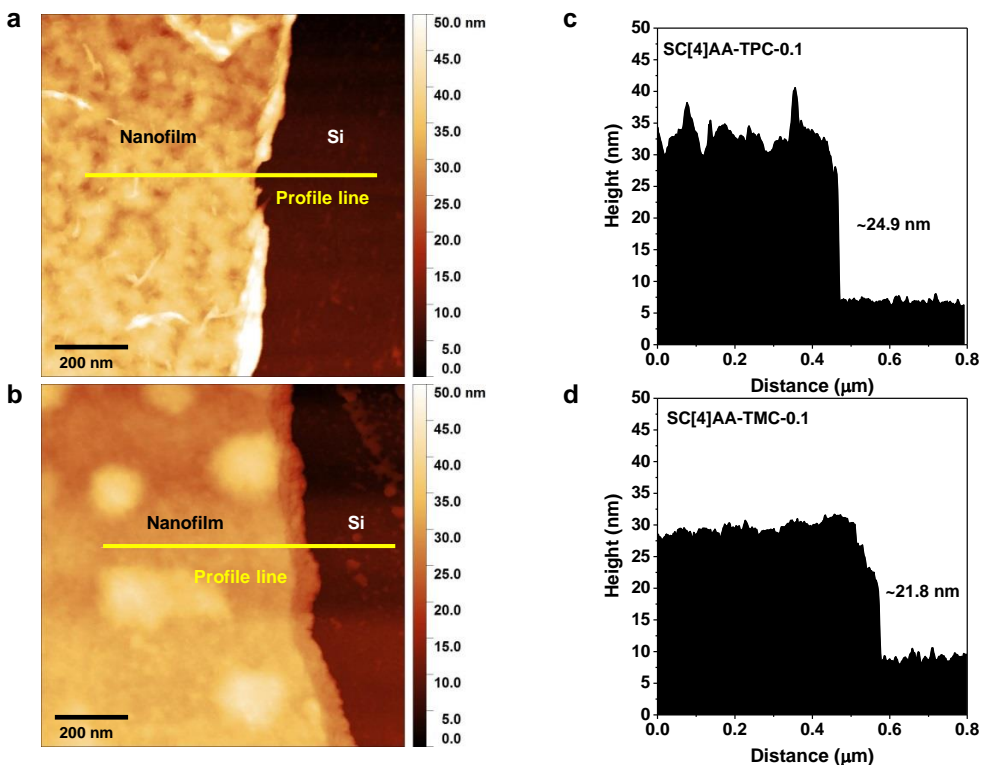
Supplementary Figure 26 | AFM height image of the nanofilms. They were made from **a**, 0.1 wt.%, **b**, 0.2 wt.%, **c**, 0.5 wt.%, and **d**, 1.0 wt.% amino-functionalised β -CDA and 0.1 wt.% trimesoyl chloride (TMC) reacted for 1 min. **e-h**, Height along profile lines scanned for respective nanofilms.



Supplementary Figure 27 | AFM height image of the nanofilms. They were made from **a**, 0.01 wt.%, **b**, 0.02 wt.%, **c**, 0.05 wt.%, **d**, 0.1 wt.% amino-functionalised α -cyclodextrin (α -CDA) and 0.1 wt.% TPC reacted for 1 min. **e-h**, Height along profile lines scanned for respective nanofilms.



Supplementary Figure 28 | AFM height image of the nanofilms. They were made from **a**, 0.05 wt.%, **b**, 0.1 wt.%, **c**, 0.2 wt.%, and **d**, 2 wt.% amino-functionalised γ -cyclodextrin (γ -CDA) and 0.1 wt.% TPC reacted for 1 min. **e-h**, Height along profile lines scanned for respective nanofilms.

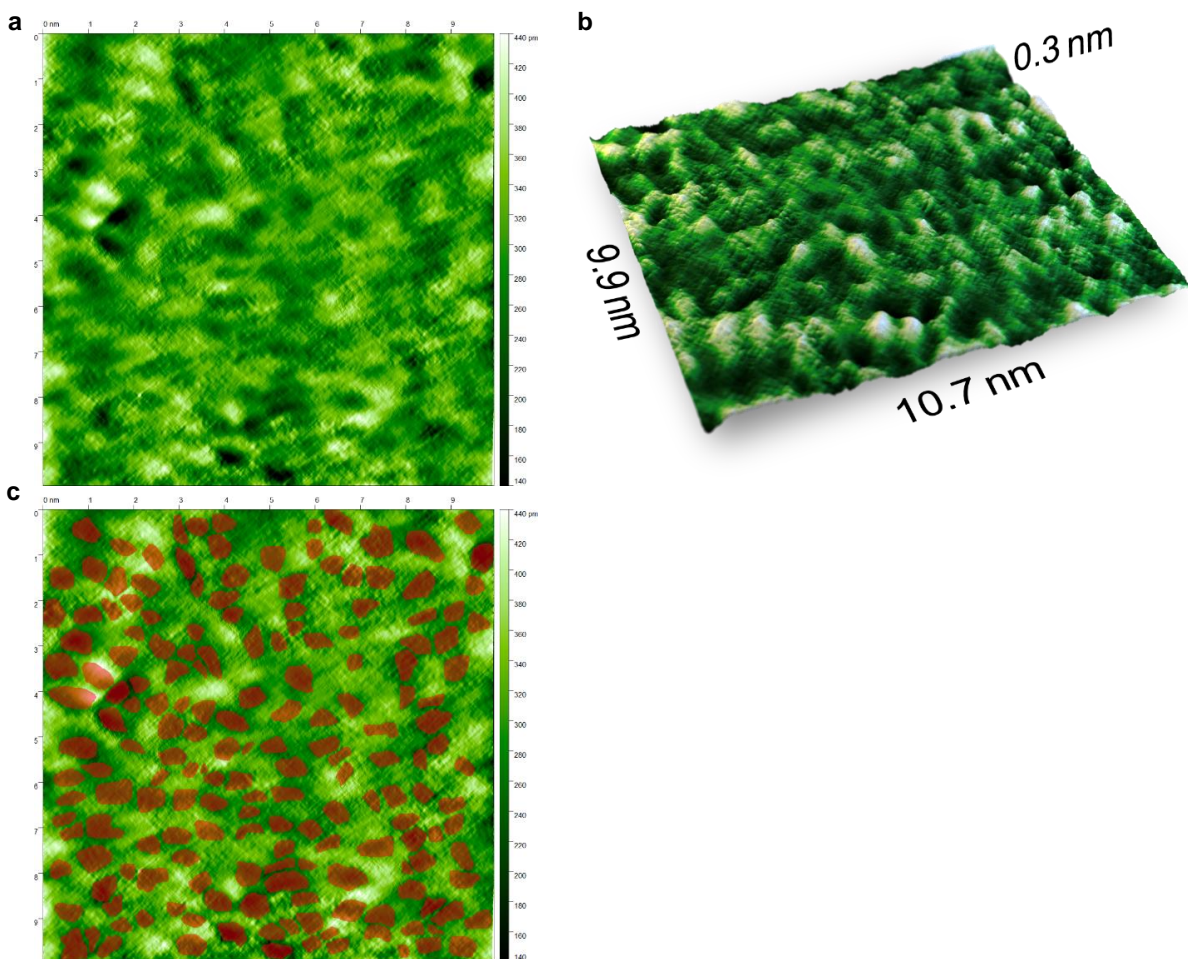


Supplementary Figure 29 | AFM height image of the nanofilms. They were made from 0.1 wt.% amino-functionalised 4-sulfocalix[4]arene (SC[4]AA) with **a**, 0.1 wt.% TPC and **b**, 0.1 wt.% TMC reacted for 20 min. **c** and **d**, Height along profile lines scanned for respective nanofilms. The nanofilm thicknesses were one order of magnitude thinner than those fabricated from unfunctionalised precursors⁴¹.

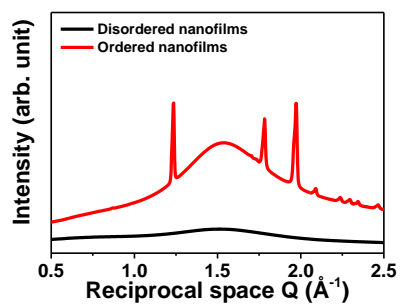
Supplementary Table 2. Upper (narrow) and lower (wide) rim dimensions of macrocycles.

Property	α -CDA*	β -CDA*	γ -CDA*	SC[4]AA [†]
Upper rim diameter (nm)	0.45	0.61	0.77	0.57
Lower rim diameter (nm)	0.57	0.78	0.95	0.57

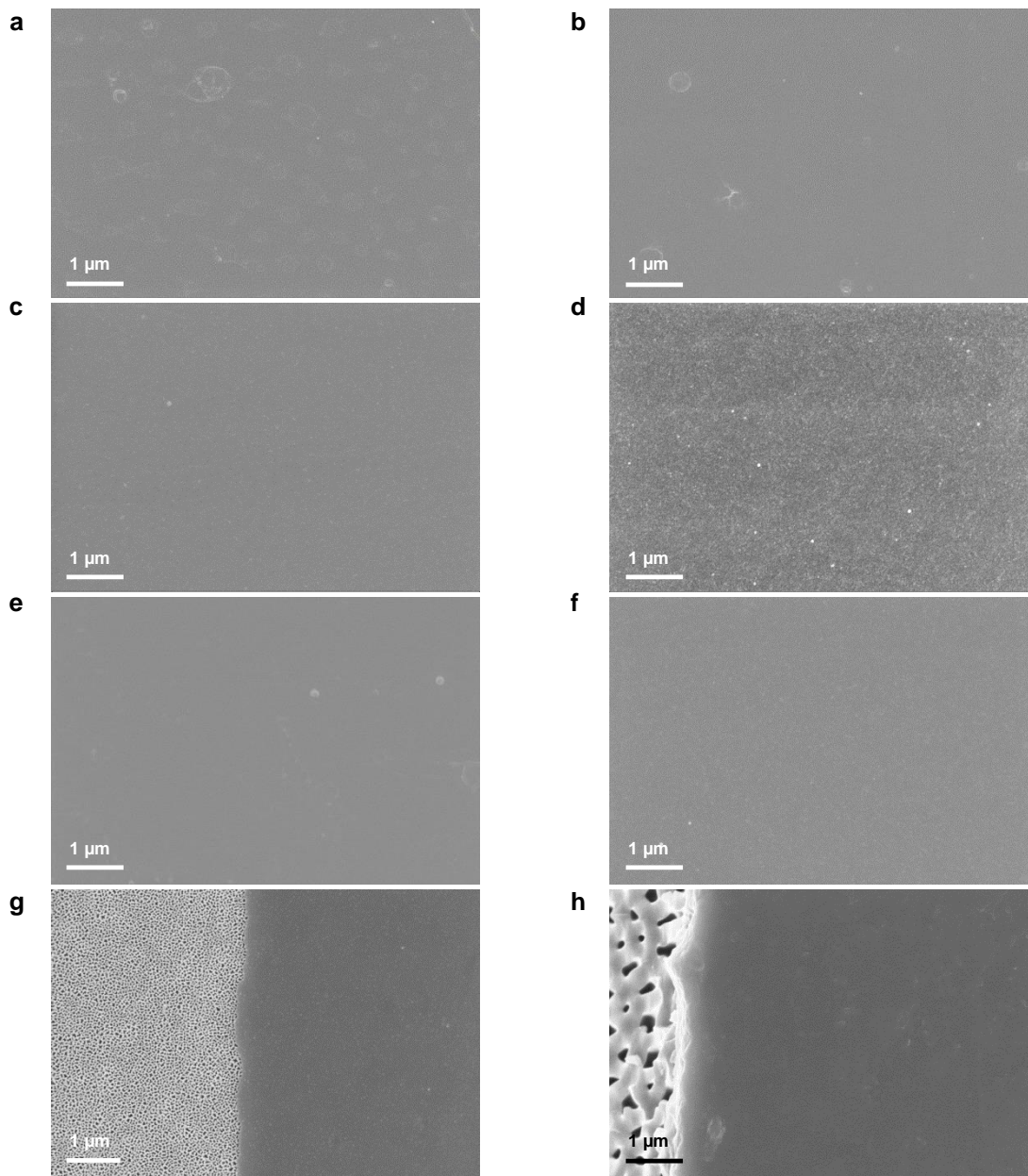
*Dimensions adapted from the reported literature⁴². [†]Dimensions from molecular simulation, please refer to Supplementary Figure 48.



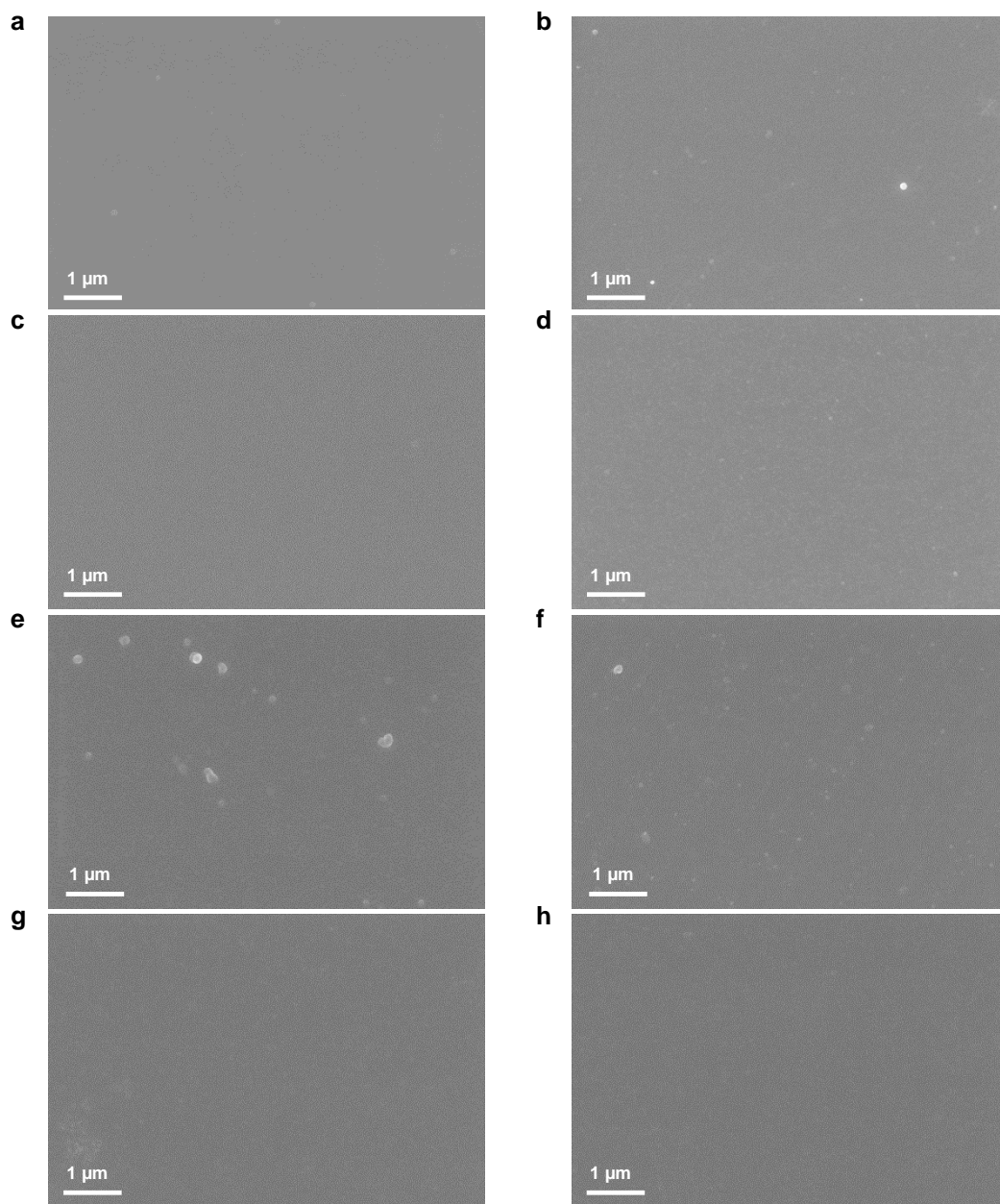
Supplementary Figure 30 | UHV AFM height images of nanofilms made from medium cavity β -CDA. Original a, 2D, b, 3D images, and c, 2D image with pores being marked.



5 Supplementary Figure 31 | Powder X-ray diffraction of the nanofilm powders. They were made from disordered nanofilms (β -CDA-TMC-0.1) and ordered nanofilms (β -CDA-TPC-0.1).



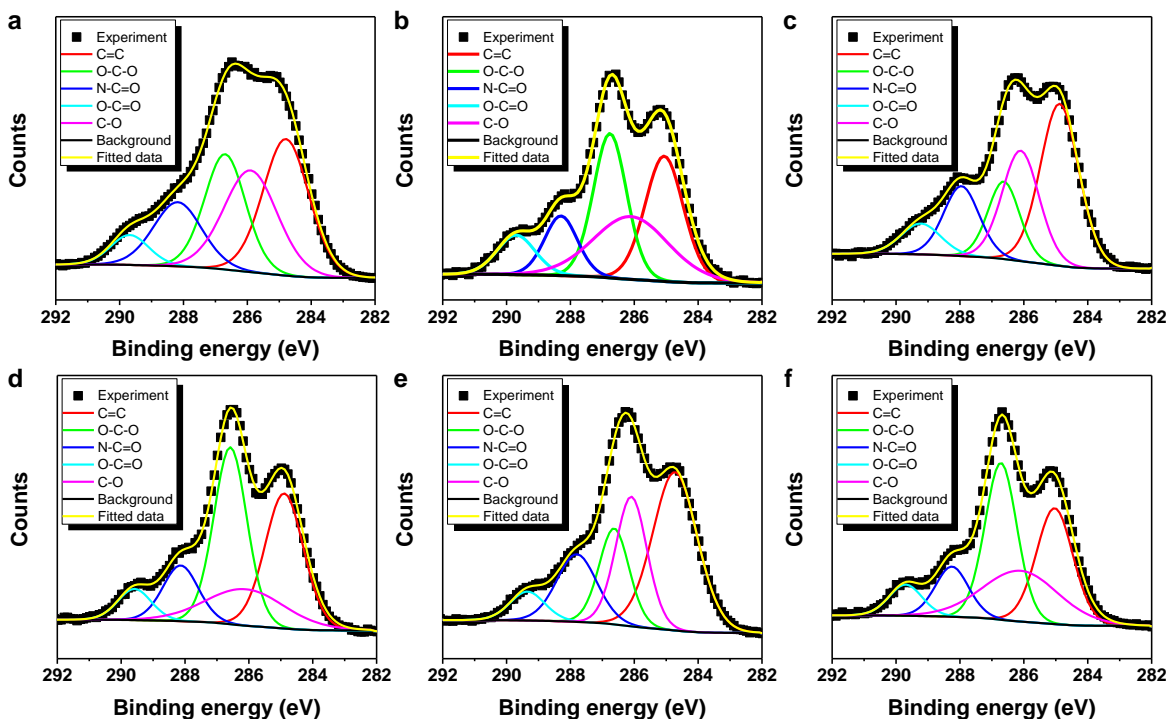
Supplementary Figure 32 | SEM surface images of the nanofilms. These include nanofilms (β -CDA-TMC-0.1) made from 0.1 wt.% amino-functionalised β -cyclodextrin (β -CDA) and 0.1 wt.% TMC revealing **a**, the front-surface-up and **b**, the back-surface-up transferred onto PAN supports. SEM images of the nanofilms (β -CDA-TPC-0.1) made from 0.1 wt.% β -CDA and 0.1 wt.% TPC revealing **c**, the front-surface-up and **d**, the back-surface-up transferred onto PAN supports. SEM images of **e**, the nanofilm (β -CDA-TMC-0.05) made from 0.05 wt.% β -CDA and 0.1 wt.% TMC and **f**, the nanofilm (β -CDA-TPC-0.05) made from 0.05 wt.% β -CDA and 0.1 wt.% TPC transferred onto PAN supports. SEM surface images of **g**, the nanofilm (β -CDA-TPC-0.1) made from 0.1 wt.% β -CDA and 0.1 wt.% TPC and **h**, the nanofilm (α -CDA-TPC-0.1) made from 0.1 wt.% α -CDA and 0.1 wt.% TPC transferred onto alumina supports.



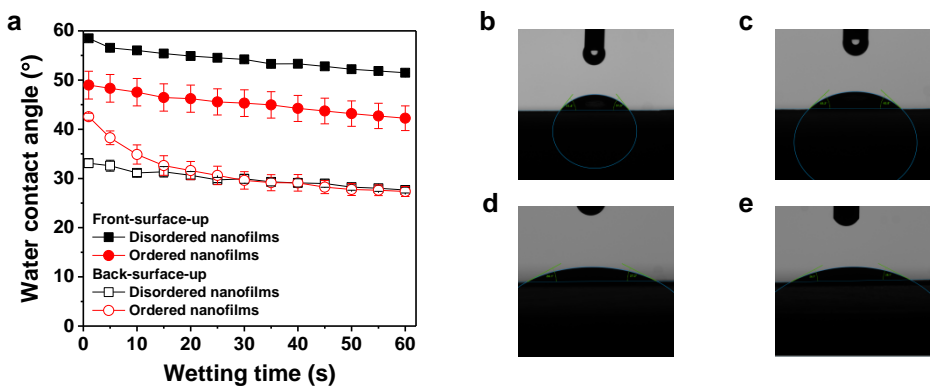
Supplementary Figure 33 | SEM surface images of the nanofilms. These include nanofilms made from **a**, 0.05 wt.% α -CDA (α -CDA-TPC-0.05), **b**, 0.1 wt.% α -CDA (α -CDA-TPC-0.1), **c**, 0.05 wt.% γ -CDA (γ -CDA-TPC-0.05), **d**, 0.1 wt.% γ -CDA (γ -CDA-TPC-0.1), **e**, 0.2 wt.% γ -CDA (γ -CDA-TPC-0.2), and **f**, 2 wt.% γ -CDA (γ -CDA-TPC-2) with 0.1 wt.% terephthaloyl chloride (TPC) reacted for 1 min and transferred onto PAN supports. SEM images of **g**, the nanofilms (SC[4]AA-TPC-0.1) made from 0.1 wt.% amino-functionalised 4-sulfocalix[4]arene (SC[4]AA) reacted with 0.1 wt.% TPC and **h**, the nanofilms (SC[4]AA-TMC-0.1) made from 0.1 wt.% SC[4]AA reacted with 0.1 wt.% TMC for 20 min and transferred onto PAN supports.

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
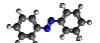
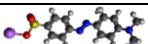
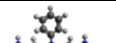
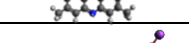
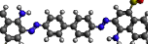
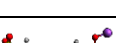
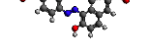


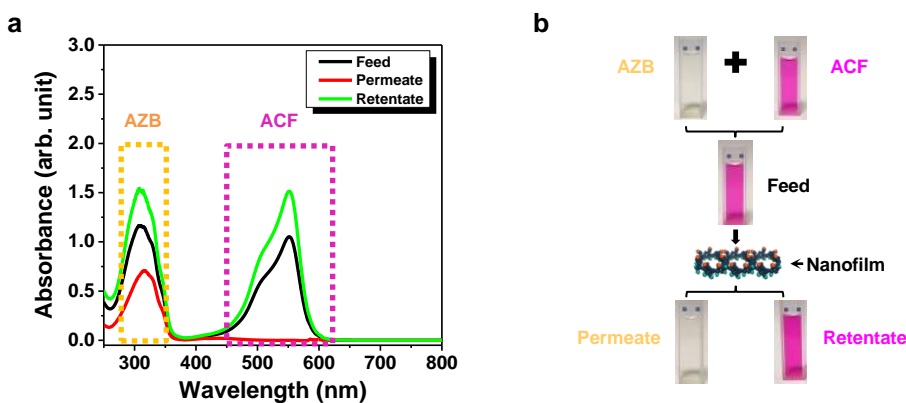
Supplementary Figure 34 | X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) C1s spectrum of the nanofilms. They were made from **a**, 0.1 wt.% amino-functionalised α -cyclodextrin (α -CDA) and terephthaloyl chloride (TPC) (α -CDA-TPC-0.1), **b**, 0.1 wt.% β -CDA and TPC (β -CDA-TPC-0.1), **c**, 0.1 wt.% β -CDA and trimesoyl chloride (TMC) (β -CDA-TMC-0.1), **d**, 0.1 wt.% γ -CDA and TPC (γ -CDA-TPC-0.1), **e**, 0.2 wt.% γ -CDA and TPC (γ -CDA-TPC-0.2), and **f**, 2 wt.% γ -CDA and TPC (γ -CDA-TPC-2). Concentration of acyl chloride for all nanofilms were controlled at 0.1 wt.%.



Supplementary Figure 35 | Water contact angle of disordered nanofilms (β -CDA-TMC-0.1) and ordered nanofilms (β -CDA-TPC-0.1) with their front or back surfaces facing up. **a, Measurement of water contact angle over wetting time of 60 sec. Photographs of water droplets on the surface of **b**, disordered nanofilms and **c**, ordered nanofilms with front-surface-up, and **d**, disordered nanofilms and **e**, ordered nanofilms with back-surface-up. High water contact angle reveals a more hydrophobic surface that creates potential for fast transport of non-polar solvent.**

Supplementary Table 3. Properties of dye molecules used for OSN. Charge 0 denotes neutral charge, - denotes negative charge, and + denotes positive charge.

Dye molecule name	Structure	Dimension (nm × nm)	Molecular weight (g mol ⁻¹)	Charge
4-nitrophenol (4NP)		0.25 × 0.63	139	0
Azobenzene (AZB)		0.43 × 0.90	182	0
Methyl orange (MO)		0.51 × 1.5	327	-
Safranin O (SO)		0.73 × 0.97	351	+
Congo red (CR)		0.89 × 2.4	696	-
Sunset yellow (SY)		1.1 × 1.7	452	-
Acid fuchsin (ACF)		1.2 × 1.3	585	-
Brilliant blue R (BB)		1.4 × 2.1	826	-



5 **Supplementary Figure 36 | Rejection of a feed mixture containing azobenzene (AZB) and acid fuchsin (ACF) in methanol through β -CDA-TPC-0.1 membrane. a, UV-vis spectra and b, photos of the feed, permeate, and retentate.**

Supplementary Table 4. Solubility parameter and viscosity of various solvents.

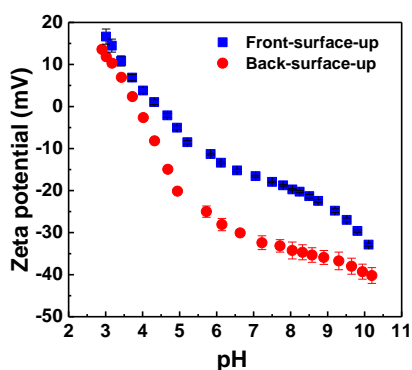
Solvent	Solubility parameter, δ , (MPa ^{0.5})*	Viscosity, μ , (10 ⁻³ Pa.s)*
Water	48.0	0.89
Acetonitrile	24.6	0.32
Methanol	29.7	0.49
Acetone	20.1	0.316
Hexane	14.4	0.297
Heptane	15.3	0.33
Toluene	18.2	0.52

*The values were adapted from the literature^{2,43}.

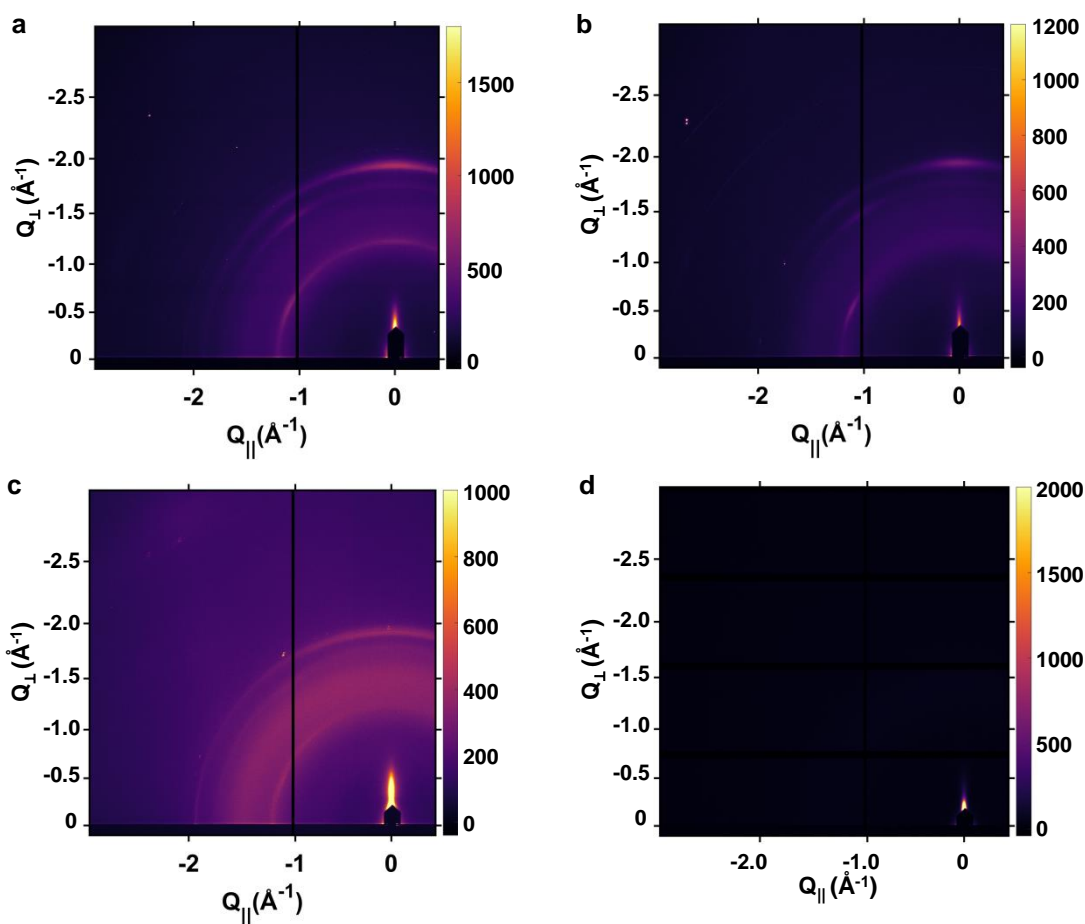
Supplementary Table 5. Performance of commercial polyamide-based nanofiltration membranes and composite membranes comprising nanofilms made from amino-functionalised macrocycles and acyl chloride at a free interface.

Membrane (macrocycle-acyl chloride- wt.%-remark)	Pure methanol permeance (L m ⁻² h ⁻¹ bar ⁻¹)	Dye rejection (%)							
		4NP (0.25 nm)	AZB (0.43 nm)	MO (0.51 nm)	SO (0.73 nm)	CR (0.89 nm)	SY (1.1 nm)	ACF (1.2 nm)	BB (1.4 nm)
<i>α</i> -CDA-TPC-0.05	7.64 ± 0.1	18.0 ± 1.0	33.9 ± 0.9	93.0 ± 1.2	94.0 ± 0.9	98.6 ± 0.3	97.2 ± 0.6	99.4 ± 0.2	99.3 ± 0.3
<i>α</i> -CDA-TPC-0.1	5.75 ± 0.2	8.4 ± 2.5	36.2 ± 4.9	90.3 ± 0.5	95.8 ± 0.8	99.3 ± 0.1	99.0 ± 0.1	99.5 ± 0.4	99.3 ± 0.3
<i>α</i> -CDA-TPC-0.1-AI [*]	9.51 ± 0.3	9.8 ± 1.5	18.3 ± 3.4	91.3 ± 1.2	96.3 ± 2.0	99.6 ± 0.2	96.0 ± 1.2	97.3 ± 1.4	99.7 ± 0.1
<i>β</i> -CDA-TPC-0.05	9.84 ± 0.2	4.7 ± 0.7	28.3 ± 2.3	81.3 ± 5.2	95.5 ± 1.2	98.3 ± 0.3	98.3 ± 0.5	99.8 ± 0.1	99.6 ± 0.1
<i>β</i> -CDA-TPC-0.1	6.26 ± 0.4	10.6 ± 0.3	27.7 ± 0.3	75.1 ± 3.9	96.2 ± 0.8	98.6 ± 0.4	96.0 ± 0.3	99.4 ± 0.3	99.8 ± 0.1
<i>β</i> -CDA-TPC-0.1-back [†]	10.4 ± 0.8	9.2 ± 1.7	23.8 ± 2.5	72.0 ± 4.0	90.7 ± 1.3	98.8 ± 0.5	94.4 ± 2.3	99.0 ± 0.3	98.5 ± 0.5
<i>β</i> -CDA-TPC-0.1-AI [*]	11.9 ± 0.4	15.6 ± 0.8	26.4 ± 1.6	83.2 ± 5.3	96.5 ± 2.1	98.3 ± 1.2	96.0 ± 1.7	99.7 ± 0.1	99.5 ± 0.1
<i>β</i> -CDA-TPC-2-direct [‡]	1.14 ± 0.1	42.1 ± 2.7	63.6 ± 3.1	92.6 ± 2.4	94.7 ± 3.3	99.0 ± 0.3	98.5 ± 0.7	98.0 ± 0.8	99.1 ± 0.2
<i>β</i> -CDA-TMC-0.05	3.91 ± 0.1	6.5 ± 0.5	26.9 ± 2.1	92.4 ± 1.6	92.2 ± 1.2	98.4 ± 0.3	95.8 ± 0.9	98.2 ± 0.5	98.5 ± 0.6
<i>β</i> -CDA-TMC-0.1	3.00 ± 0.5	10.0 ± 0.7	16.5 ± 2.1	93.0 ± 1.5	98.0 ± 0.4	99.8 ± 0.1	97.2 ± 0.7	99.2 ± 0.2	99.7 ± 0.1
<i>β</i> -CDA-TMC-0.1-back [†]	6.27 ± 0.3	23.2 ± 3.2	44.5 ± 2.0	93.6 ± 1.3	93.4 ± 1.6	98.9 ± 0.3	98.0 ± 0.4	99.0 ± 0.1	99.5 ± 0.1
<i>γ</i> -CDA-TPC-0.05	9.87 ± 0.2	3.6 ± 1.1	12.3 ± 0.2	57.0 ± 5.3	58.2 ± 6.1	99.0 ± 0.1	91.1 ± 0.8	98.0 ± 0.3	99.2 ± 0.2
<i>γ</i> -CDA-TPC-0.1	9.30 ± 0.5	7.4 ± 0.8	23.5 ± 4.4	60.0 ± 3.6	75.7 ± 2.1	98.6 ± 1.0	94.5 ± 1.6	99.7 ± 0.1	99.8 ± 0.1
<i>γ</i> -CDA-TPC-0.2	1.92 ± 0.3	15.2 ± 1.0	58.9 ± 0.8	91.2 ± 3.7	94.6 ± 4.6	99.1 ± 0.2	96.7 ± 1.8	99 ± 0.1	99.8 ± 0.1
<i>γ</i> -CDA-TPC-2	1.61 ± 0.2	40.5 ± 2.0	70.2 ± 3.5	96.7 ± 1.2	98.6 ± 1.0	99.0 ± 0.1	99.7 ± 0.1	99.7 ± 0.2	99.9 ± 0.1
SC[4]AA-TPC-0.1 [‡]	3.08 ± 0.4	25.3 ± 1.0	48.2 ± 2.3	84.3 ± 2.7	92.6 ± 0.8	94.3 ± 1.0	92.9 ± 0.9	94.2 ± 2.1	98.1 ± 0.7
SC[4]AA-TMC-0.1 [‡]	2.51 ± 0.2	22.7 ± 0.8	52.6 ± 1.9	95.7 ± 1.3	98.6 ± 0.4	99.6 ± 0.2	99.3 ± 0.1	99.6 ± 0.1	99.8 ± 0.1
TriSep™ TS40 ^{**}	8.65 ± 3.0	41.2 ± 1.7	48.0 ± 1.4	85.4 ± 4.9	48.7 ± 1.8	83.5 ± 13.5	90.9 ± 8.2	42.7 ± 12.8	45.1 ± 16.6
Suez™ (GE) DK ^{**}	4.96 ± 0.5	38.2 ± 0.6	49.4 ± 6.4	93.3 ± 0.6	88.6 ± 1.2	98.9 ± 0.6	97.6 ± 0.5	75.8 ± 8.4	60.3 ± 29.6
Synder Filtration™ NDX ^{**}	2.55 ± 0.3	49.4 ± 3.4	71.9 ± 5.0	96.3 ± 2.4	97.6 ± 0.7	98.6 ± 1.4	97.8 ± 2.1	95.7 ± 1.7	97.5 ± 0.5

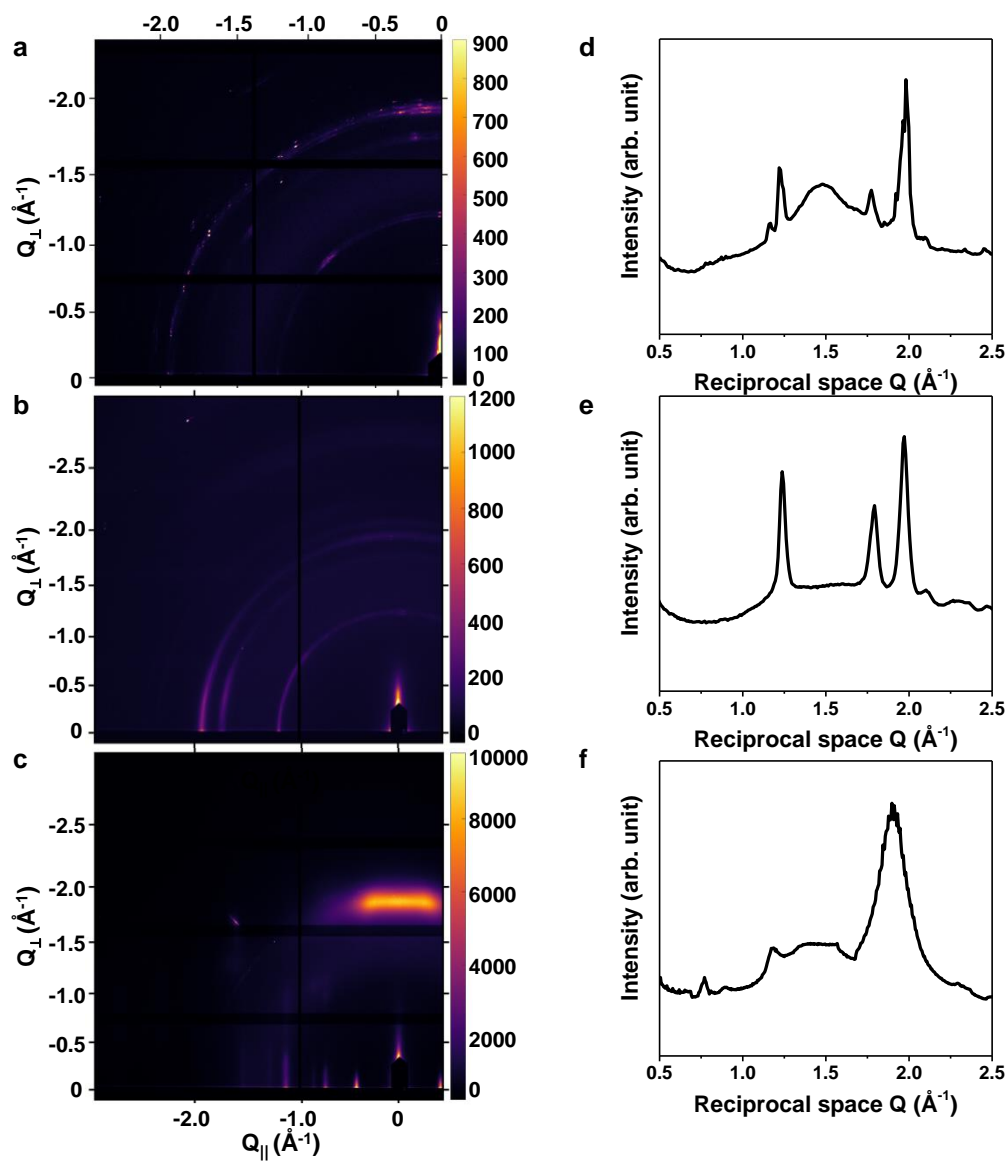
Unless specified otherwise, nanofilms were made from amino-functionalised macrocycles and acyl chloride via interfacial polymerisation at a free interface reacted for 1 min and then transferred with the front surface facing up onto PAN supports to form composite membranes. ^{*}Nanofilms were transferred onto alumina supports to create composite membranes. [†]Nanofilms were flipped over and transferred with the back surface facing up (back-surface-up) onto the supports. [‡]Nanofilms were directly made on PAN supports via conventional interfacial polymerization. [§]Nanofilms were fabricated via interfacial reaction for 20 min. ^{**}Commercial polyamide-based nanofiltration membranes. All experiments were carried out in a dead-end filtration cell at a constant pressure 10 bar and a constant temperature 25 °C under constant stirring at 250 rpm. Dye concentrations were maintained at 20 mg L⁻¹ throughout all experiments.



Supplementary Figure 37 | Zeta potential of the front and back surfaces of the β -CDA-TMC-0.1 nanofilm.

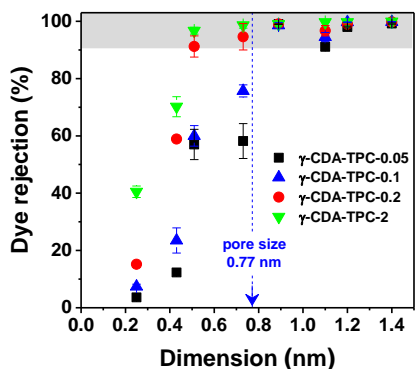


5 **Supplementary Figure 38 | GI-WAXS images of the nanofilms.** Two-dimensional images of nanofilms made from increasing γ -CDA concentrations **a**, 0.05 wt.% γ -CDA (γ -CDA-TPC-0.05), **b**, 0.1 wt.% γ -CDA (γ -CDA-TPC-0.1), **c**, 0.2 wt.% γ -CDA (γ -CDA-TPC-0.2), and **d**, 2 wt.% γ -CDA (γ -CDA-TPC-2) with 0.1 wt.% terephthaloyl chloride (TPC). The corresponding one-dimensional image is shown in Fig. 3e in the main text.

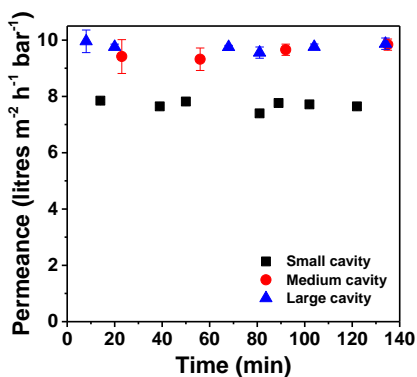


Supplementary Figure 39 | GI-WAXS images of the nanofilms. Two dimensional images of nanofilms made **a**, 0.01 wt.% α -CDA (α -CDA-TPC-0.01) and **b**, 0.01 wt.% γ -CDA (γ -CDA-TPC-0.01) with 0.1 wt.% TPC, and **c**, 0.01 wt.% β -CDA with 0.1 wt.% TMC (β -CDA-TMC-0.01). **d-f**, GI-WAXS one-dimensional images of the nanofilms in a-c respectively.

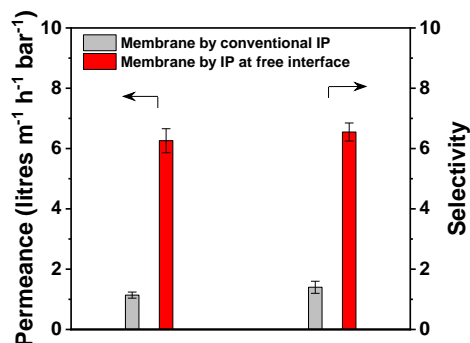
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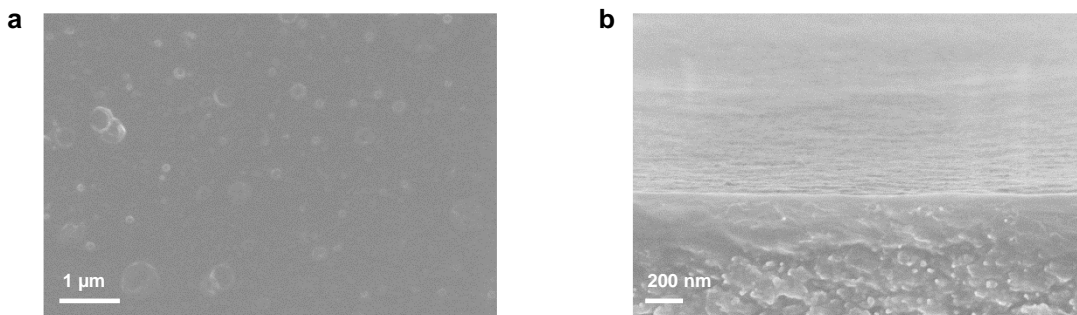
Supplementary Figure 40 | Dye rejections of the composite membranes. They comprise nanofilms made from various concentrations of γ -CDA with constant 0.1 wt.% TPC.



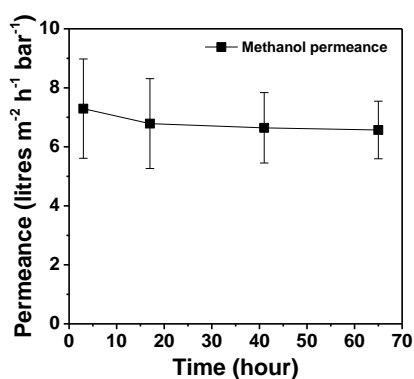
5 **Supplementary Figure 41 | Pure methanol permeance of the composite membranes.** They comprise nanofilms made from small cavity (α -CDA-TPC), medium cavity (β -CDA-TPC), and large cavity (γ -CDA-TPC) at constant concentrations of 0.05 wt.% CDA and 0.1 wt.% TPC reacted for 1 min, and transferred onto PAN supports.



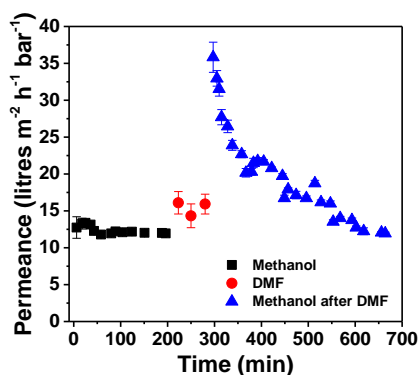
10 **Supplementary Figure 42 | Comparison of performance for composite membranes.** They comprise nanofilms made by conventional interfacial polymerisation (IP) directly on supports and by IP at free interface (β -CDA-TPC-0.1) and subsequently transferred onto supports. Selectivity of solute size 0.51 nm / 0.73 nm is plotted.



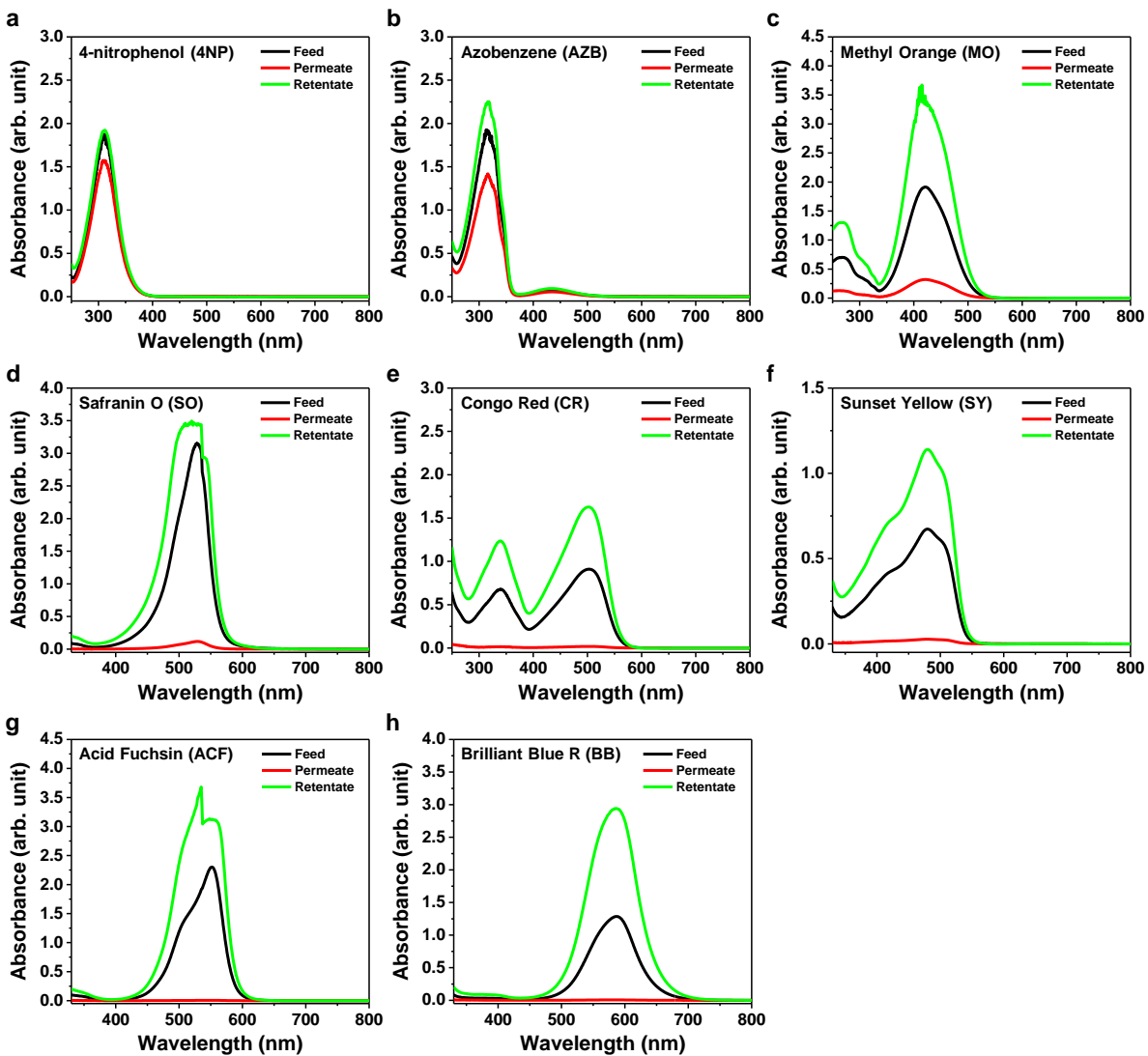
Supplementary Figure 43 | SEM images of composite membranes fabricated directly on supports by conventional interfacial polymerisation. a, surface, and b, cross sectional images.



- 5 **Supplementary Figure 44 | Long-term methanol permeance for the composite membranes.** Membranes comprise nanofilms (β -CDA-TPC-0.1) made from 0.1 wt.% β -CDA and 0.1 wt.% TPC and then transferred onto PAN supports. The membranes were tested in a crossflow rig for 3 days at 25 °C under 10 bar with flowrate of 50 L h⁻¹.

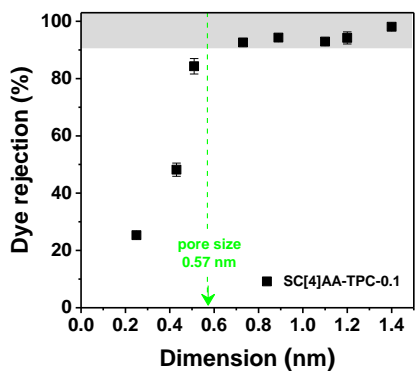


- 10 **Supplementary Figure 45 | Impact of DMF post treatment.** Methanol permeance before and after dimethylformamide (DMF) treatment for the composite membrane comprising nanofilms (β -CDA-TPC-0.1-A1) made from 0.1 wt.% β -CDA and 0.1 wt.% TPC and then transferred onto alumina supports. No activation by DMF was observed for the membrane.



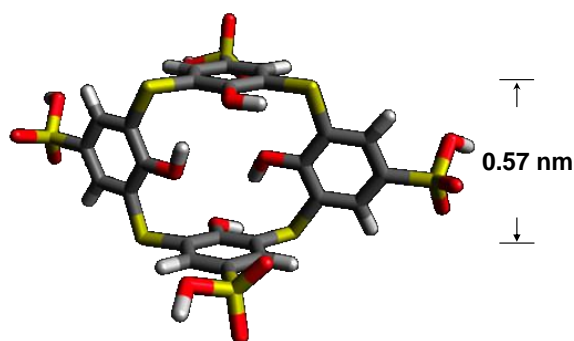
Supplementary Figure 46 | Typical ultraviolet-visible (UV-vis) absorption spectra of dyes in feed, permeate, and retentate demonstrating the rejection performance of composite membranes. This membrane comprised nanofilms (β -CDA-TPC-0.1-Al) made from 0.1 wt.% β -CDA and 0.1 wt.% terephthaloyl chloride (TPC) at the free interface for 1 min and then transferred onto alumina supports.

5

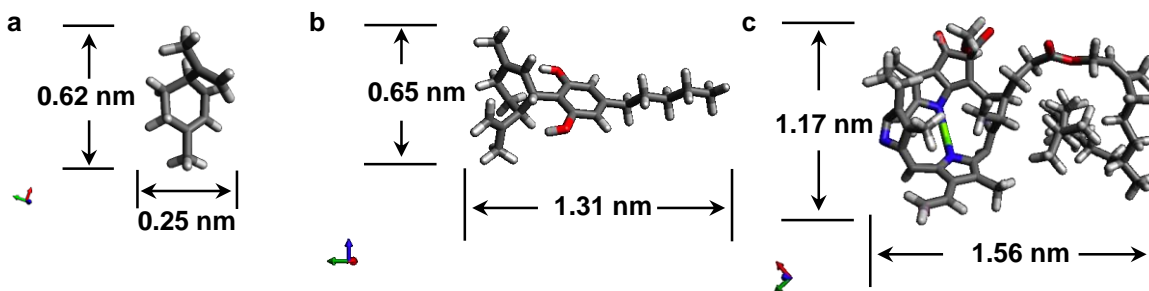


Supplementary Figure 47 | Dye rejections of the composite membranes. They comprise nanofilms made from amino-functionalised 4-sulfocalix[4]arene sodium salt (SC[4]AA) and 0.1 wt.% terephthaloyl chloride (TPC) at the free interface for 20 min and then transferred onto PAN supports.

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Supplementary Figure 48 | Schematic illustrating the molecular dimensions of amino-functionalised 4-sulfocalix[4]arene sodium salt (SC[4]AA).



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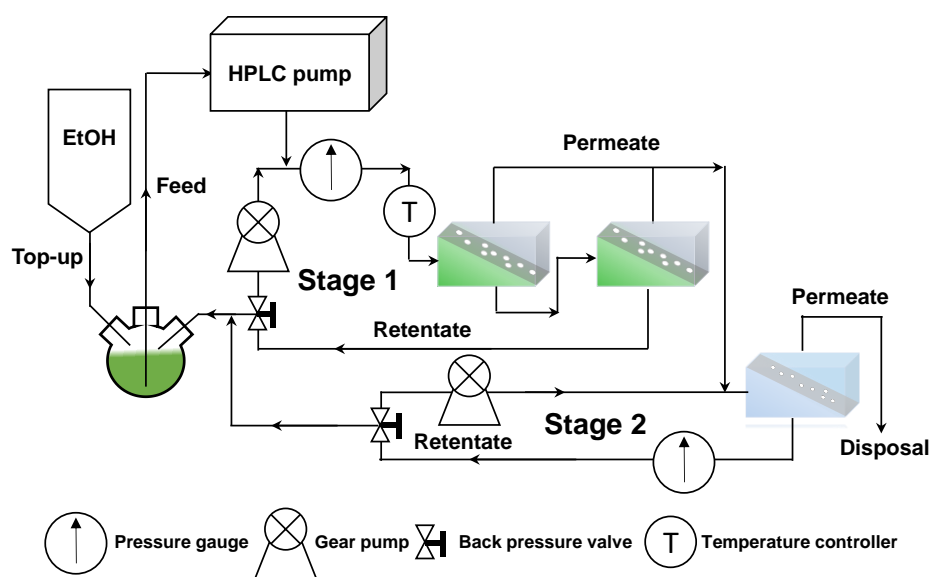
Supplementary Figure 49 | Schematic illustrating the molecular dimensions. a, limonene (136 g mol⁻¹), b, CBD (314 g mol⁻¹), and c, chlorophyll (893 g mol⁻¹).

Supplementary Table 6. Comparison of selectivity performance between membranes reported in literature and membranes fabricated from amino-functionalised macrocycles in this work.

Membrane material	Methanol permeance (L m ⁻² h ⁻¹ bar ⁻¹)	MW <300 g mol ⁻¹		MW 300-400 g mol ⁻¹		MW 400-500 g mol ⁻¹		Selectivity		Ref.
		Dye (MW)	Rejection (%)	Dye (MW)	Rejection (%)	Dye (MW)	Rejection (%)	MW<300 / MW 300-400	MW 300-400 / MW 400-500	
Cyclodextrin	4.9			MO (327)	67	IC (466)	88	-	2.75	8
Trianglamine macrocycle	22			MO (327)	83	OG (452)	96	-	4.25	9
COF	72	NR (229)	2	SO (351)	5	PR (453)	5	1.03	1.00	13
Cyclodextrin	17	MR (291)	60	MO (327)	88	RBB (442)	95	1.58	2.40	17
Polyarylate	8	CSG (249)	70	DR (314)	90	CV (408)	97	3.00	3.33	30
Graphene oxide	9	HNSA (246)	99.9	DR (314)	99.9	CV (408)	99.9	1.00	1.00	31
Polyimide	1.6			MO (327)	60	OG (452)	82	-	2.22	32
Cyclodextrin	5.8	MR (291)	60	MO (327)	93			5.71	-	7
PIM	8.7	SOG (214)	99.9	DR (314)	99.9			1.00	-	33
Conjugated polymers	22.5	AZB (182)	10.2	MB (320)	48.4			1.74	-	34
γ -CDA-TPC-0.1	9.30			MO (327)	60.0	SY (452)	94.5	-	7.27	This work
β -CDA-TPC-0.05	9.84			MO (327)	81.3	SY (452)	98.3	-	11	This work
α -CDA-TPC-0.05	7.64	AZB (182)	33.9	MO (327)	93.0			-	9.44	This work
α -CDA-TPC-0.1-AI	9.51	AZB (182)	18.3	MO (327)	91.3			-	9.39	This work

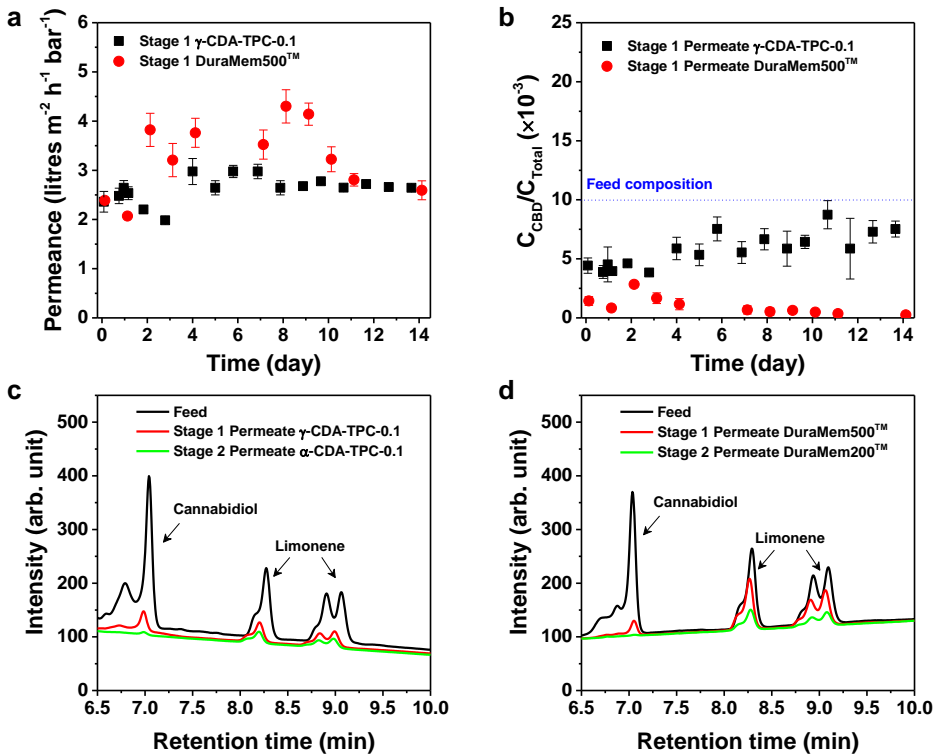
Abbreviations: MW-molecular weight, COF-covalent organic frameworks, PIM-polymers of intrinsic microporosity, AZB-azobenzene, SOG-sudan orange G, NR-natural red, HNSA-6-hydroxy-2-naphthalenesulfonic acid sodium salt, CSG-chrysoidine G, MR-methyl red sodium salt, DR-disperse red, MB-methylene blue, MO-methyl orange, SO-safranin O, CV-crystal violet, RBB-rhodamine B base, SY-sunset yellow, OG-orange G, PR-primuline, IC-indigo carmine. The molecular weight of each dye was shown in the bracket after the name of the dyes. Selectivity was calculated by following Equation 2.

5



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Supplementary Figure 50 | Schematic illustrating a cascade process for enriching CBD.



Supplementary Figure 51 | Performance of cascade process enriching CBD. **a**, Ethanol permeance and **b**, the concentration of CBD in permeate over time for nanofilms incorporating aligned macrocycle pores (γ -CDA-TPC-0.1) and commercial standard membrane DuraMem500TM used in Stage 1. Ultra-violet (UV) absorbance of CBD and limonene from high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) for **c**, composite membranes incorporating aligned macrocycle pores versus **d**, commercial membranes. Composite membranes comprising large cavity (γ -CDA-TPC-0.1) and DuraMem500TM were used at Stage 1 and composite membranes comprising small cavity (α -CDA-TPC-0.1) and DuraMem200TM were used at Stage 2.

10

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