

## Supplementary Material for

# Probing the RAFT Process Using a Model Reaction between Alkoxyamine and Dithioester

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### The characterization results of RAFT agents

#### 1. 2-Cyanoprop-2-yl dithiobenzoate (CNSS)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm): 1.95 (*s*, 6H,  $\text{CH}_3\text{-C-CH}_3$ ), 7.92 (*d*, 2H, *o*-ArH), 7.56(*dd*, 1H, *p*-ArH), 7.40 (*dd*, 2H, *m*-ArH). FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) = 1229 and 1047 (C=S);  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) = 2231(CN). UV-Vis max (cyclohexane): 296 and 529 nm. GC-MS (EI):  $m/e$  = 221. Purity by HPLC = 99.4%.

#### 2. Cumyl Dithiobenzoate (CumSS)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm): 2.00 (*s*, 6H,  $\text{CH}_3\text{-C-CH}_3$ ), 7.85 (*d*, 2H, *o*-ArH of dithiobenzoate), 7.46 (*dd*, 1H, *p*-ArH of dithiobenzoate), 7.55 (*d*, 2H, *o*-ArH cumyl), 7.22 (*dd*, 1H, *p*-ArH cumyl), 7.31-7.39 (*m*, 4H, ArH cumyl). FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) = 1218 and 1042 (C=S). UV-Vis max (cyclohexane): 299 and 444 nm. GC-MS (EI):  $m/e$  = 272. Purity by HPLC = 99.8%.

#### 3. Benzyl Dithiobenzoate (BzSS)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm): 4.6 (*s*, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{-Ph}$ ), 8.00 (*d*, 2H, *o*-ArH of dithiobenzoate), 7.53 (*dd*, 1H, *p*-ArH of dithiobenzoate), 7.25-7.45 (*m*, 7H, ArH benzyl). FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) = 1226 and 1044 (C=S). UV-Vis max (cyclohexane): 302 and 504 nm. GC-MS (EI):  $m/e$  = 244. Purity by HPLC = 99.4%.

#### 4. 1-Phenyl-2-benzoyloxy-ethyl Dithiobenzoate (BoESS)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$ (ppm): 4.77-4.84 (*m*, 2H,  $\text{CH-CH}_2$ ), 5.77-5.80 (*t*, 1H,  $\text{CH-CH}_2$ ), 6.89-7.29 (*m*, ArH,11H), 7.91-8.08 (*d*, ArH,4H). UV-Vis max (cyclohexane): 298 and 514 nm. GC-MS:  $m/e$  = 378. Purity by HPLC = 99.4%.

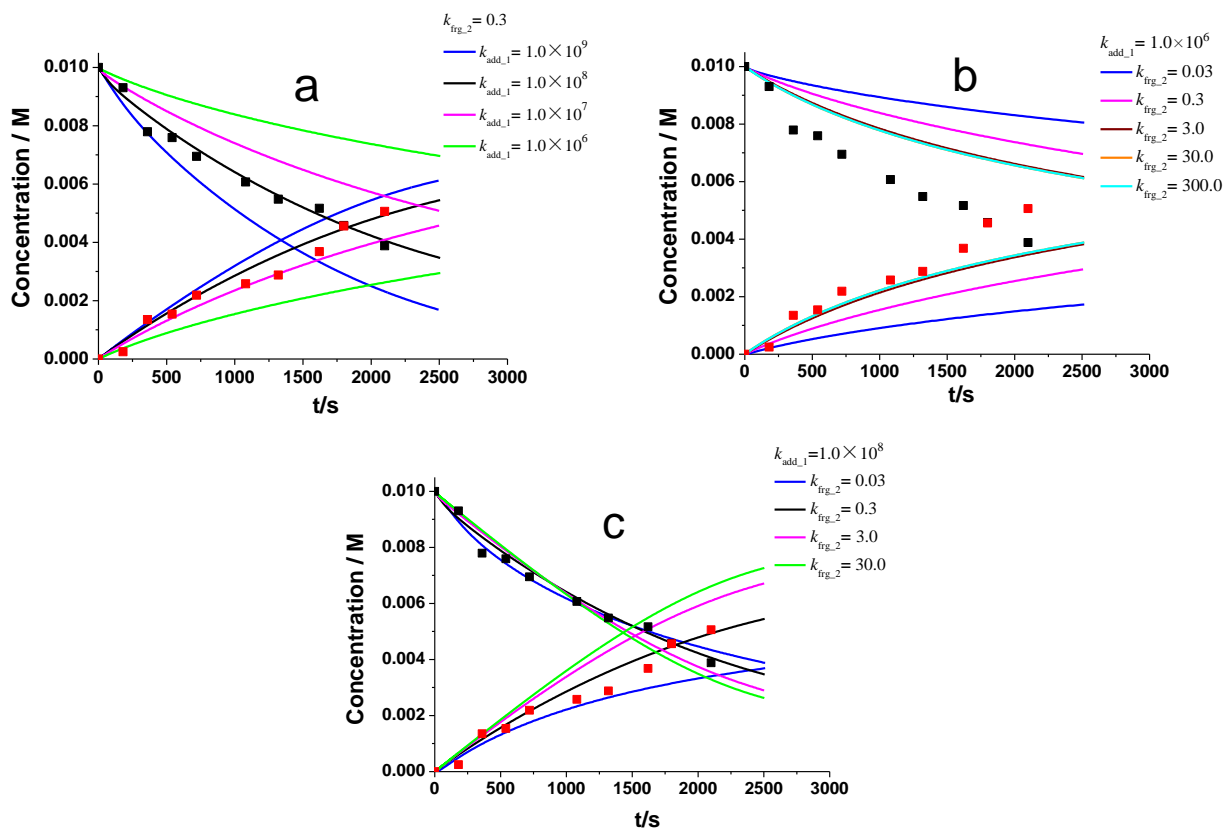
## 5. 2-(Ethoxycarbonyl)prop-2-yl Dithiobenzoate (ECPSS)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.24 (*t*, 3H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_3$ ), 1.76 (*s*, 6H,  $\text{CH}_3\text{-C-CH}_3$ ), 4.16 (*q*, 2H,  $\text{O-CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 7.35 (*dd*, 2H, *m*-ArH), 7.52 (*dd*, 1H, *p*-ArH), 7.95 (*d*, 2H, *o*-ArH). FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) = 1260 and 1042 (C=S);  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) = 1732 (C=O). UV-Vis max (cyclohexane): 296 and 513 nm. GC-MS (EI):  $m/e$  = 268. Purity by HPLC = 99.8%.

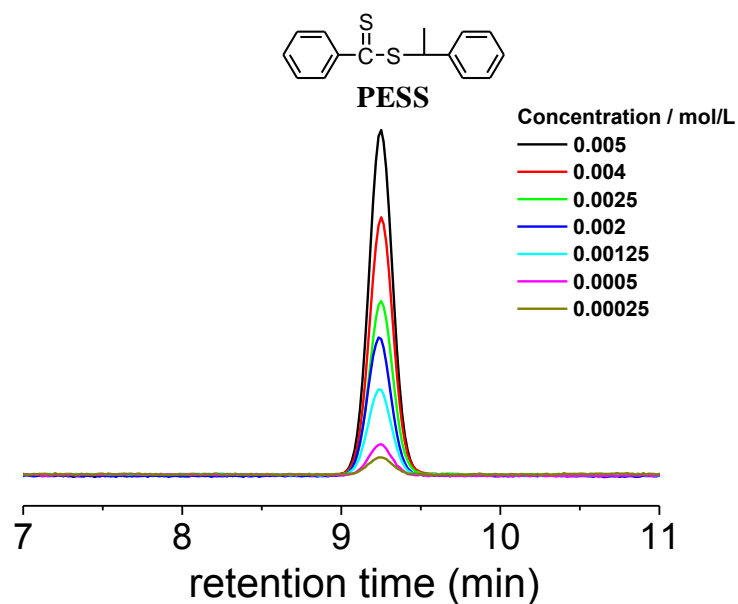
### The characterization results of Alkoxyamine

#### 1. 1-(2',2',6',6'-Tetramethylpiperidinyl-*N*-oxy)-1-phenylethane (PEON)

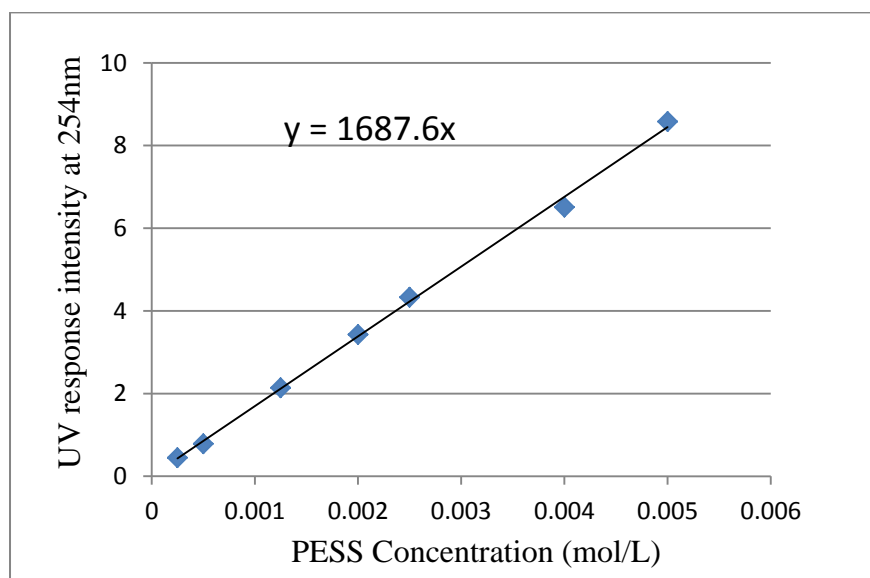
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) = 0.65 (*s*,  $\text{CH}_3$ , 3H), 1.02 (*s*,  $\text{CH}_3$ , 3H), 1.16 (*s*,  $\text{CH}_3$ , 3H), 1.29 (*s*,  $\text{CH}_3$ , 3H), 1.48 (*d*,  $\text{CH-CH}_3$ , 3H), 1.3-1.6 (*m*,  $(\text{CH}_2)_3$ , 6H), 4.77 (*q*,  $\text{CH-CH}_3$ , 1H), 7.21-7.33 (*m*, ArH, 5H). Purity by HPLC = 99.4%.



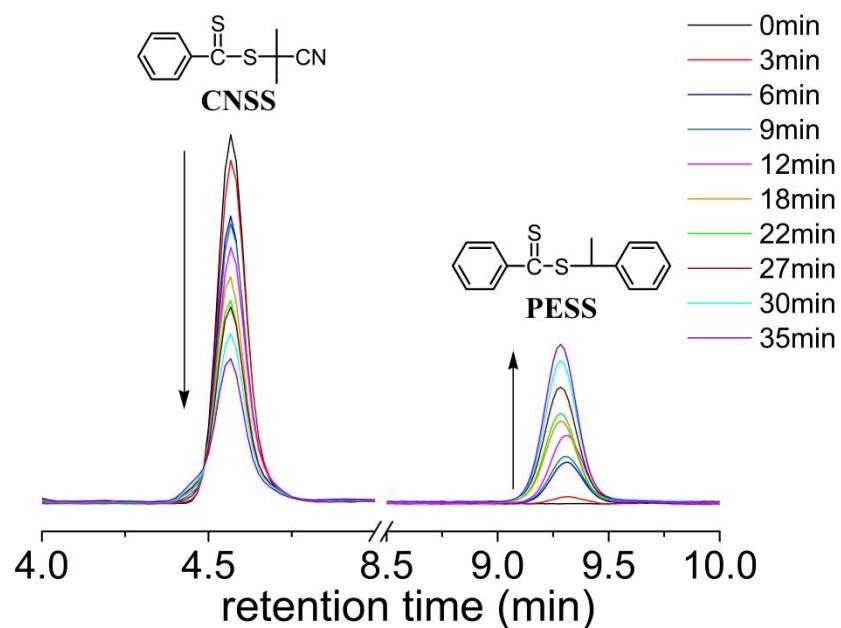
**Figure S1.** Sensitivity of the simulated kinetics on magnitudes of  $k_{\text{add}_1}$  (a) and  $k_{\text{frag}_2}$  (b, c), and kinetic fitting to the experimental results. Square: experimentally measured concentrations of starting dithioesters (black) and resulting dithioesters (red); Reaction conditions: **PEON** (0.261 g, 1.0 mmol) and **CNSS** (0.011g, 0.05 mmol) in *tert*-butyl benzene at 90 °C. Solid Lines: Monte Carlo simulation results with various values of  $k_{\text{add}_1}$  and  $k_{\text{frag}_2}$  (slow fragmentation model).



**Figure S2.** HPLC diagram of dithioester **PESS** in stock solutions of various concentrations for the purpose of calibration.



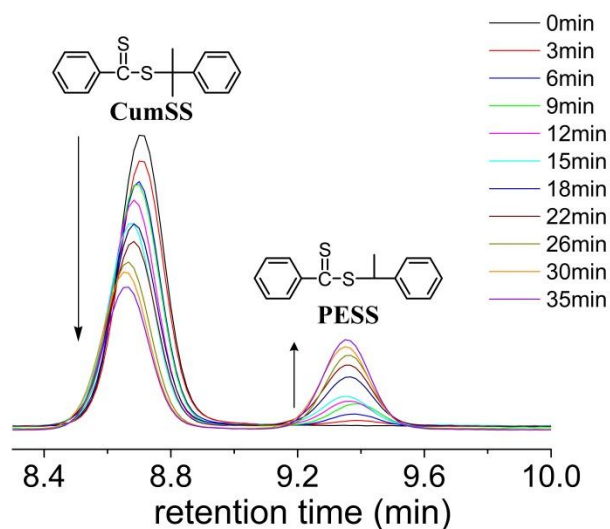
**Figure S3.** The calibration line for determining the concentration of PESS using UV detector at 254 nm.



**Figure S4.** HPLC monitoring the concentration evolution of **CNSS** (starting dithioester) and **PESS** (resulting dithioester) versus the time for the cross reaction of **PEON** (0.261 g, 1.0 mmol) and **CNSS** (0.0110g, 0.05 mmol) in *tert*-butyl benzene at 90 °C.

**Table S1.** The experimental results of concentration of **CNSS** and **PESS** versus the time for the cross reaction of **PEON** and **CNSS**

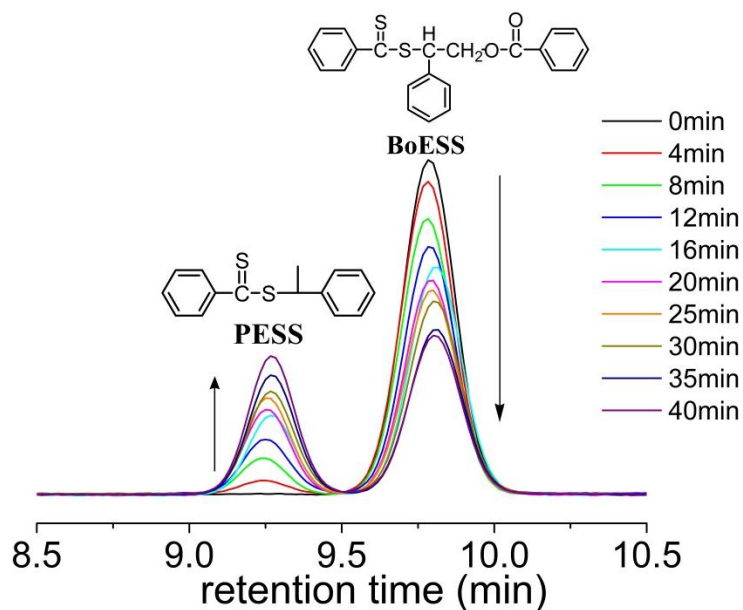
Reaction time / min	<b>CNSS</b> Concentration / mol/L	<b>PESS</b> Concentration / mol/L
0	0.010	0
3	0.0093	0.00025
6	0.0078	0.0014
9	0.0076	0.0015
12	0.0070	0.0022
18	0.0061	0.0026
22	0.0055	0.0029
27	0.0052	0.0037
30	0.0046	0.0046
35	0.0039	0.0051



**Figure S5.** HPLC monitoring the concentration evolution of **CumSS** (starting dithioester) and **PESS** (resulting dithioester) versus the time for the cross reaction of **PEON** (0.261 g, 1.0 mmol) and **CumSS** (0.0136g, 0.05 mmol) in *tert*-butyl benzene at 90 °C.

**Table S2.** The experimental results of concentration of **CumSS** and **PESS** versus the time for the cross reaction of **PEON** and **CumSS**

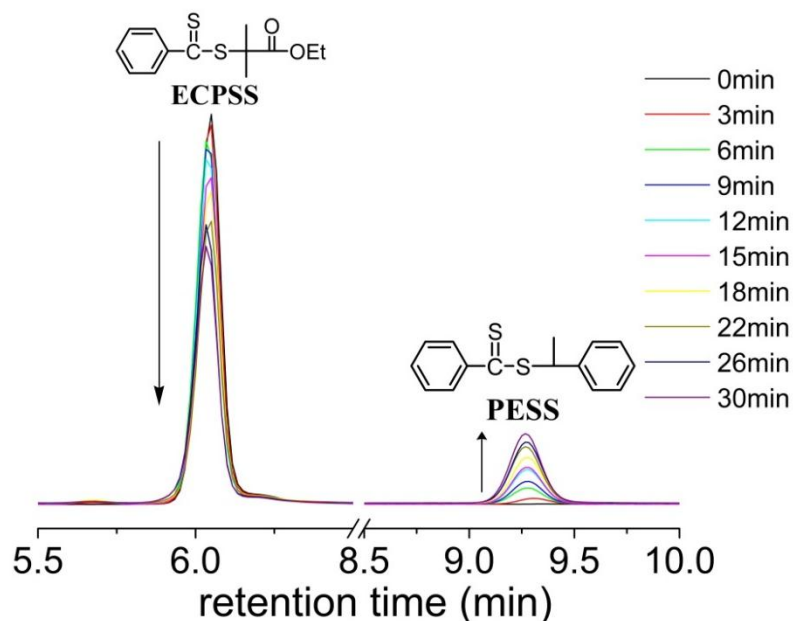
Reaction time / min	CumSS Concentration / mol/L	PESS Concentration / mol/L
0	0.010	0
3	0.0091	0.00023
6	0.0084	0.00053
9	0.0084	0.0010
12	0.0078	0.0010
15	0.0070	0.0012
18	0.0069	0.0020
22	0.0064	0.0025
26	0.0058	0.0030
30	0.0054	0.0034
35	0.0049	0.0036



**Figure S6.** HPLC monitoring the concentration evolution of **BoESS** (starting dithioester) and **PESS** (resulting dithioester) versus the time for the cross reaction of **PEON** (0.261 g, 1.0 mmol) and **BoESS** (0.0189g, 0.05 mmol) in *tert*-butyl benzene at 90 °C.

**Table S3.** The experimental results of concentration of **BoESS** and **PESS** versus the time for the cross reaction of **PEON** and **BoESS**

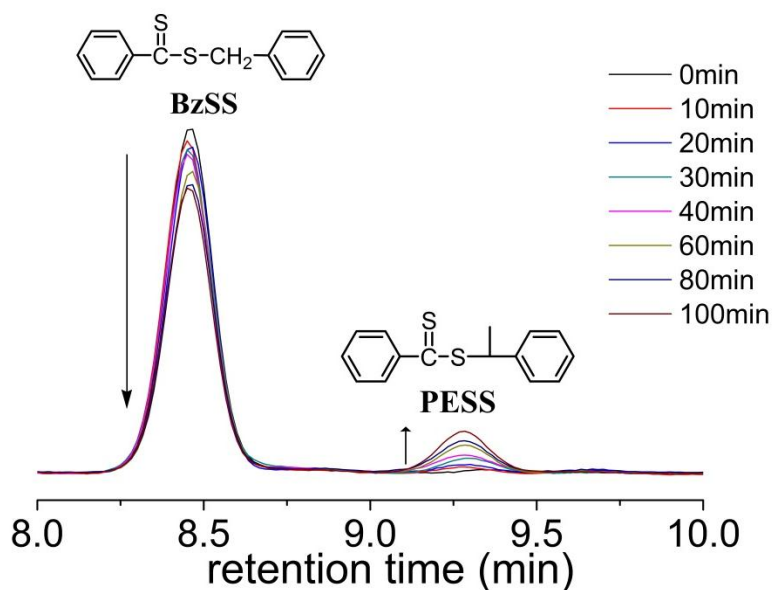
Reaction time / min	BoESS Concentration / mol/L	PESS Concentration / mol/L
0	0.01	0
4	0.0094	0.00045
8	0.0083	0.0011
12	0.0074	0.0017
16	0.0068	0.0024
20	0.0064	0.0026
25	0.0061	0.0029
30	0.0058	0.0030
35	0.0049	0.0036
40	0.0048	0.0041



**Figure S7.** HPLC monitoring the concentration evolution of **ECPSS** (starting dithioester) and **PESS** (resulting dithioester) versus the time for the cross reaction of **PEON** (0.261 g, 1.0 mmol) and **ECPSS** (0.0134g, 0.05 mmol) in *tert*-butyl benzene at 90 °C.

**Table S4.** The experimental results of concentration of **ECPSS** and **PESS** versus the time for the cross reaction of **PEON** and **ECPSS**

Reaction time / min	ECPSS Concentration / mol/L	PESS Concentration / mol/L
0	0.01	0
3	0.0097	0.00020
6	0.0093	0.00050
9	0.0091	0.00073
12	0.0088	0.0011
15	0.0084	0.0012
18	0.0080	0.0015
22	0.0073	0.0018
26	0.0071	0.0020
30	0.0066	0.0022



**Figure S8.** HPLC monitoring the concentration evolution of **BzSS** (starting dithioester) and **PESS** (resulting dithioester) versus the time for the cross reaction of **PEON** (0.261 g, 1.0 mmol) and **BzSS** (0.0122g, 0.05 mmol) in *tert*-butyl benzene at 90 °C.

**Table S5.** The experimental results of concentration of **BzSS** and **PESS** versus the time for the cross reaction of **PEON** and **BzSS**

Reaction time / min	BzSS Concentration / mol/L	PESS Concentration / mol/L
0	0.01	0
10	0.0097	0.00016
20	0.0095	0.00019
30	0.0094	0.00031
40	0.0092	0.00038
60	0.0088	0.00060
80	0.0084	0.00067
100	0.0083	0.00086