

**Academia Romana**



# **SELF – ASSEMBLING**

***a step in the development of complex organized matter***

**Valeria Harabagiu ([hvaleria@icmpp.ro](mailto:hvaleria@icmpp.ro))**  
**“Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry**  
**41A, Aleea Grigore Ghica Voda, 700487 Iasi**

# TOPICS

- ***Concepts, definitions***
- ***Self-assembling systems***

Chemistry laboratory

*Drug loaded nanoparticles*  
*(Poly)rotaxanes*  
*LB films of modified cyclodextrins*

Nature

- ***Perspectives***

# CONCEPTS

Halley and Winkler, *Complexity*, 2008

## THERMODYNAMICS

equilibrium

spontaneous

self-assembly

self-organization

- Collective interactions
- Nondissipative, equilibrium order
- Thermodynamically controlled
  
- Stable at equilibrium, no need for energy input

- Collective, nonlinear interactions
- Dissipative, nonequilibrium order
- Interplay between intrinsic/extrinsic factors
- Decay upon removal of the energy source



***WHAT CHEMISTS KNOW TO DO ?***

***« Petru Poni » Institute of  
Macromolecular Chemistry***

# ***Drug loaded nanoparticles***

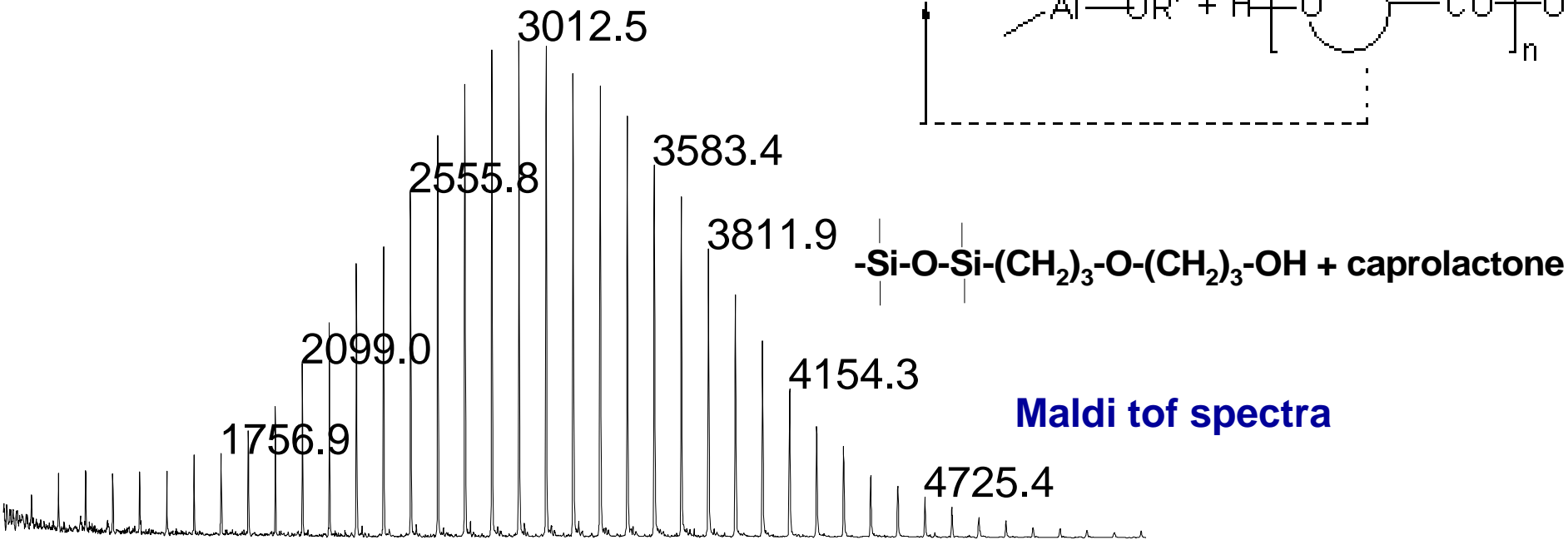
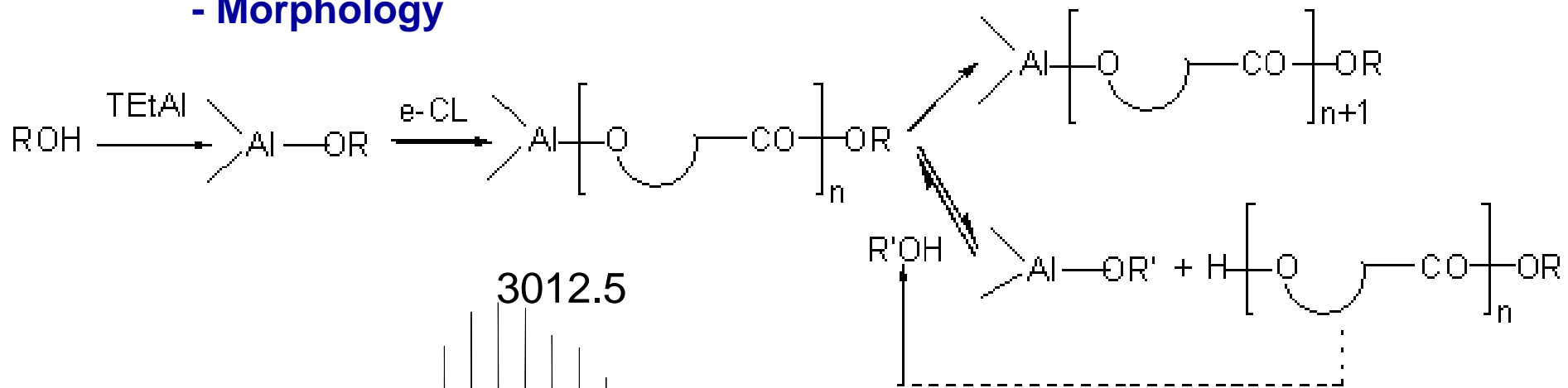
- **Controlled structures of poly(siloxane – caprolactone) copolymers**
- **Controlled morphology (reduced crystallinity of polycaprolactone rich domain)**
- **(co)nanoprecipitation  $\rightleftharpoons$  drug loaded nanoparticles**
- **Nanoparticle functionalization  $\rightleftharpoons$  application**

C. Iojoiu *et al.*,  
*J. Polym. Sci.: Part A: Polym. Chem.* **42**(3), 689-700 (2004)  
C. Racles, *Macromol. Chem. Phys.* **206**, 1757-1768 (2005)

# Siloxane-caprolactone copolymers

## Controlled coordinating anionic polymerization

- Molecular weight
- Morphology

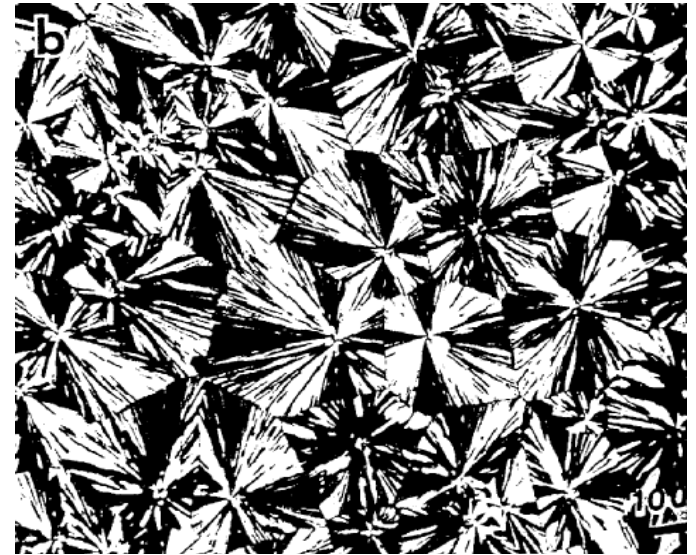


C. Iojoiu *et al.*, *J. Polym. Sci.: Part A: Polym. Chem.* **42**(3), 689-700 (2004)

# **Copolymer morphology (polarized optical micrographs)**



**$CL_{2000}-SiO_{1000}-CL_{2000}$**



**$CL_{6000}-SiO_{1000}-CL_{6000}$**

# Nanoprecipitation

## **Organic solution**

0.2 g PDMS-PCL  
1 g vitamin E  
20 ml acetone

## **Aqueous Solution**

0.4 g pluronic F-68  
40 ml water

1. Precipitation
2. Evaporation of solvent

**Nanoparticle  
Suspension**  
*Stable*  
*Dimensions: around 200 nm*

*Hydrophobic polymer*  
(PDMS-PCL)

*Hydrophilic polymer*  
(pluronic F-68)

*Active principle*  
(vitamin E)

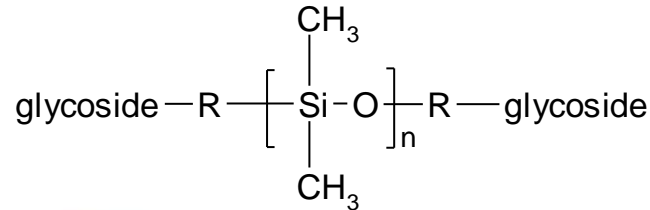
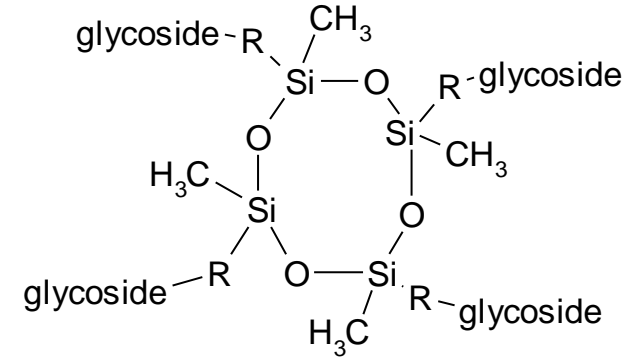
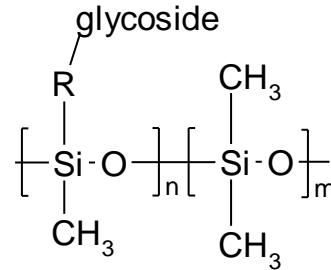


Pluronic F-68 = PEO/PPO/PEO 76/30/76



# Application

- **Controlled release**
- **Catalysis**



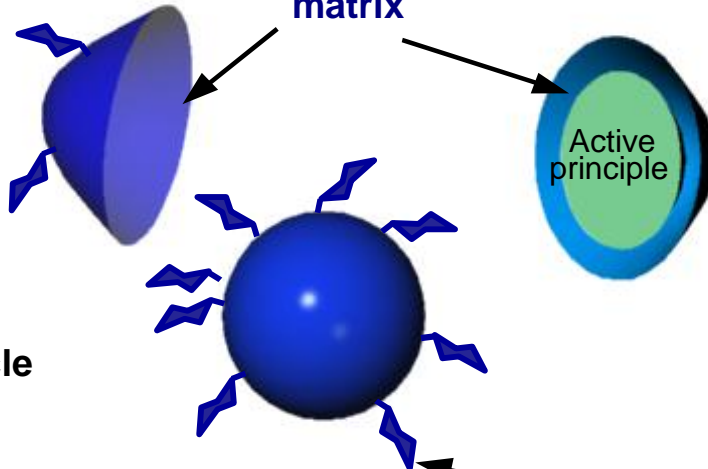
Nanosphere

Polymer matrix

Nanocapsule

Nanoparticle

Galactose



C. Racles,  
*Macromol. Chem. Phys.* **206**, 1757-1768 (2005)

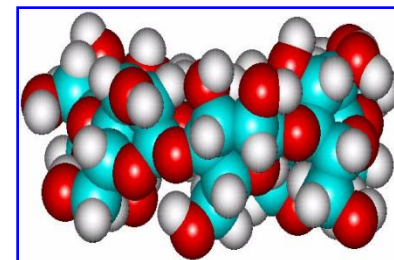
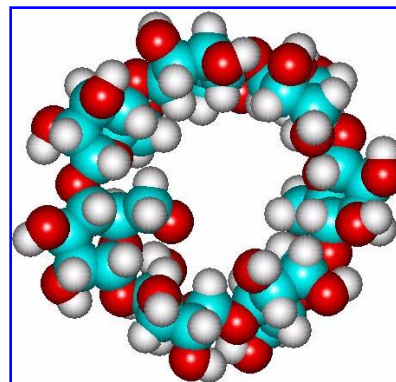
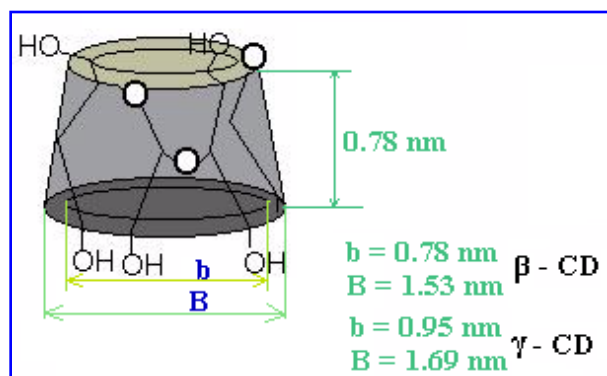
# **(Poly)rotaxanes**

typical example of non-covalent association of non-identical molecules

**macrocycle + organoclinorganic compound/polymer**

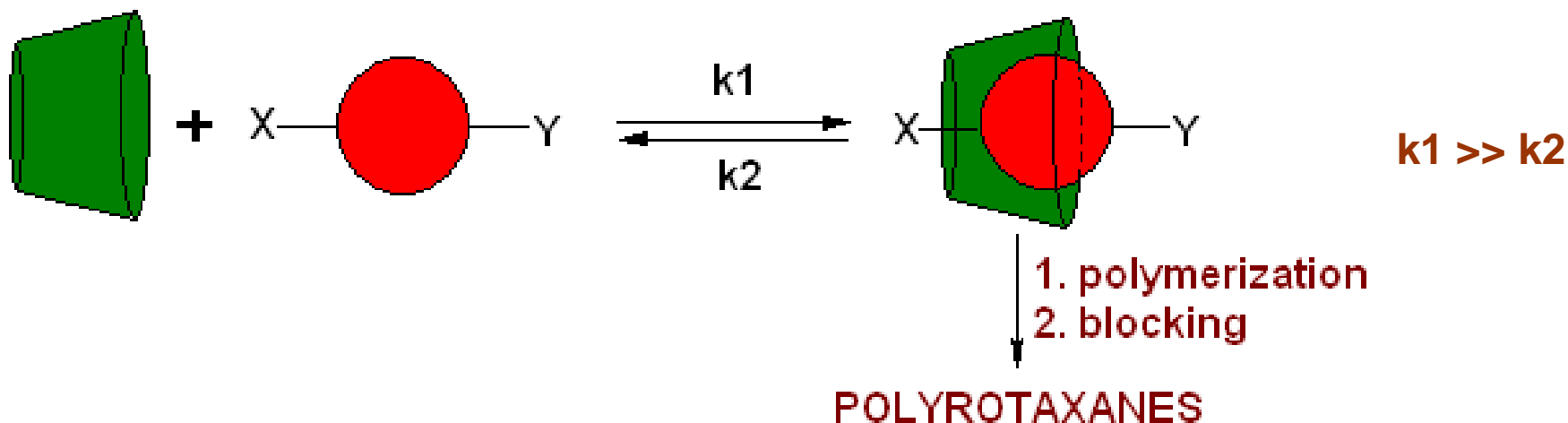
- Polysiloxanes / cyclodextrins
- Fullerene C60 / carboxyester modified cyclodextrin

## Cyclodextrin macrocycles



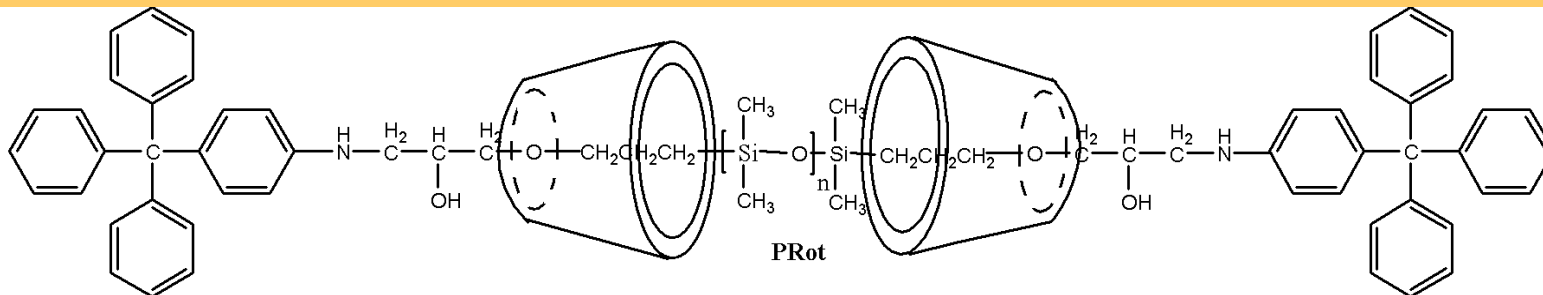
# Preparation

## □ Polymerization of inclusion complexes



## □ Inclusion of pre-synthesized polymers

# Epoxy-terminated polydimethylsiloxane/cyclodextrin polyrotaxanes

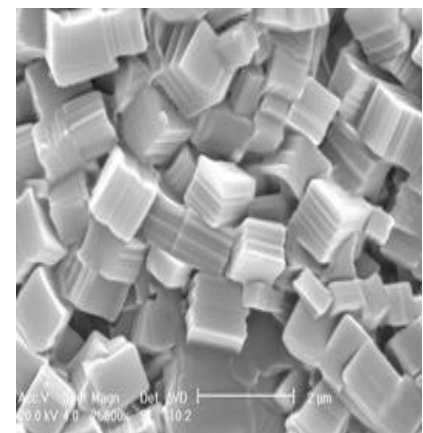


**Polydimethylsiloxane (E-PDMS):**  $M_n = 1000, 2000, 3000$

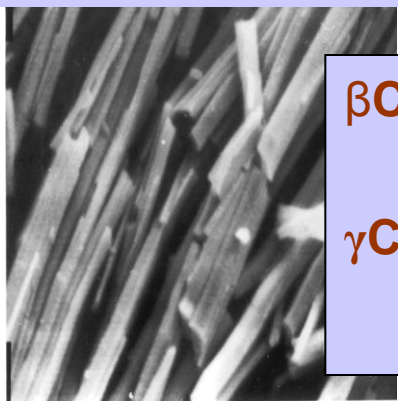
**Cyclodextrins:**  $\beta$ CD or  $\gamma$ CD

**Polyrotaxanes:** crystallinity and morphology depending on

- ❖ PDMS molecular weight
- ❖ CD dimension and content

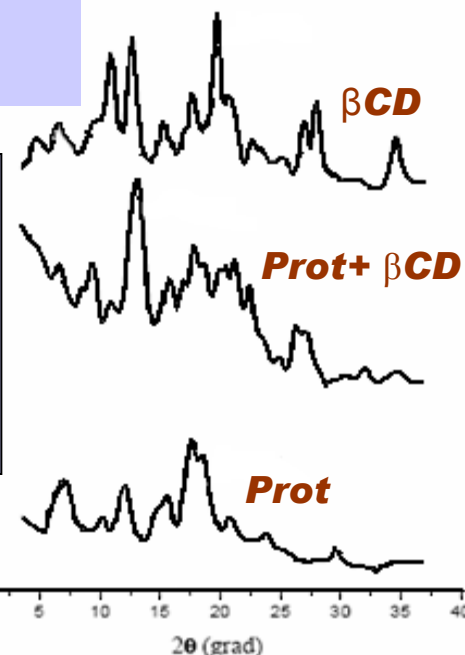


**Polyrotaxane+free  $\beta$ CD**



**Polyrotaxane**

$\beta$ CD: 2 molecules threaded on each organic chain end  
 $\gamma$ CD: the content/polymer chain increases with chain length



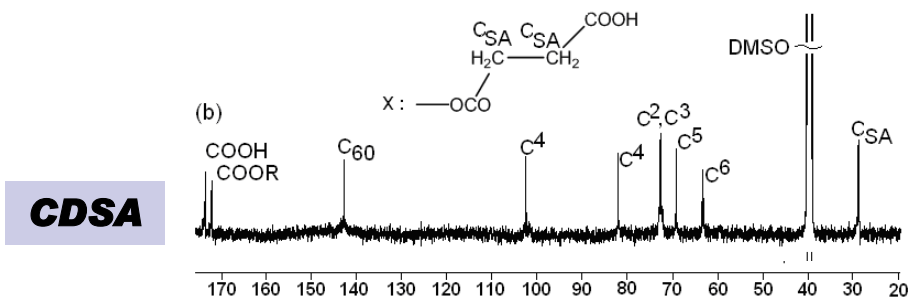
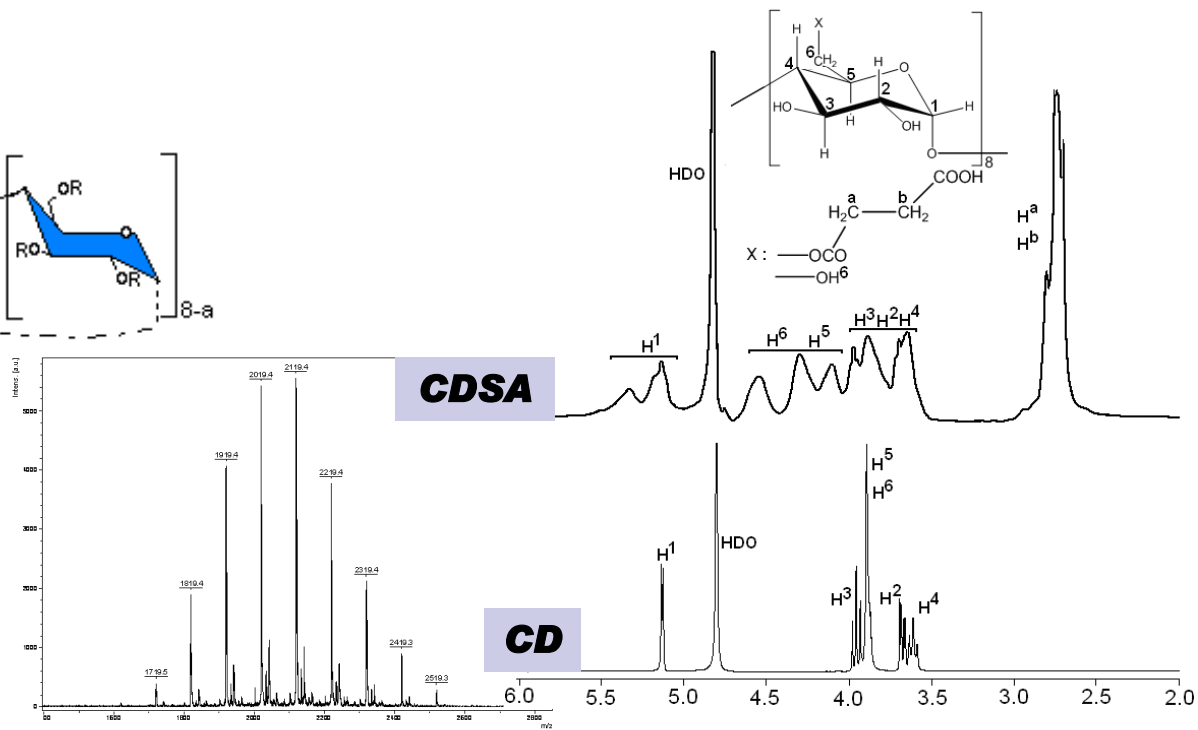
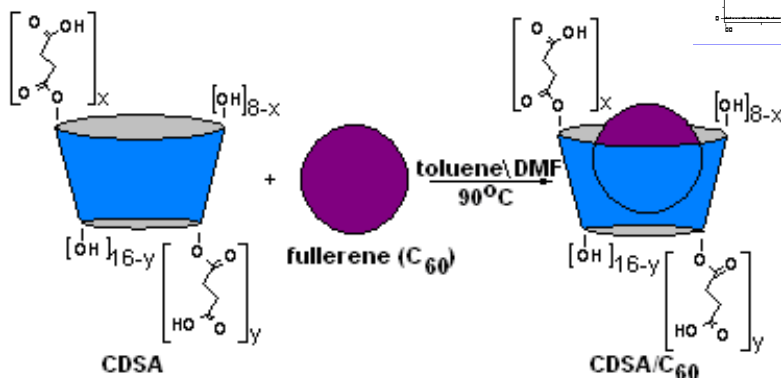
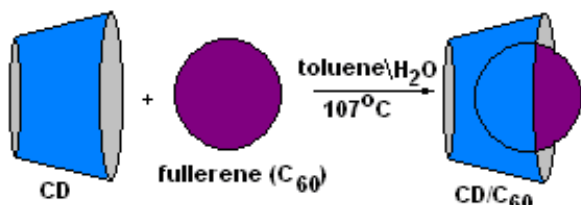
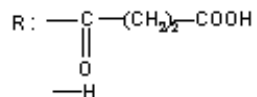
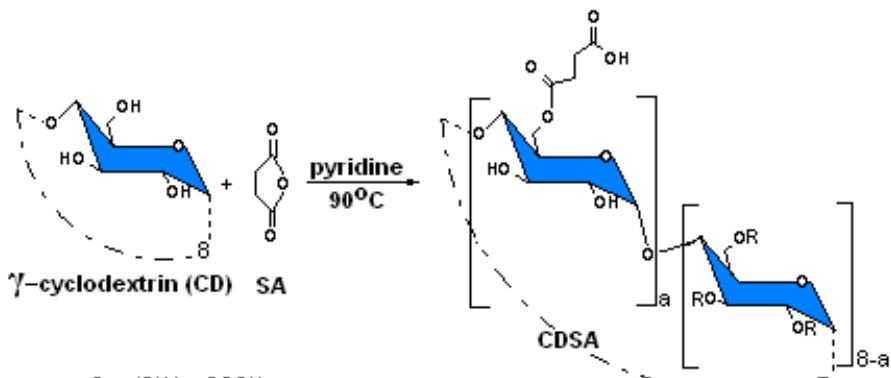
Marangoci et al.

*High Perform. Polym.* **20**, 251 (2008)

*J. Incl. Phenom. Macrocycl. Chem.* **63**,

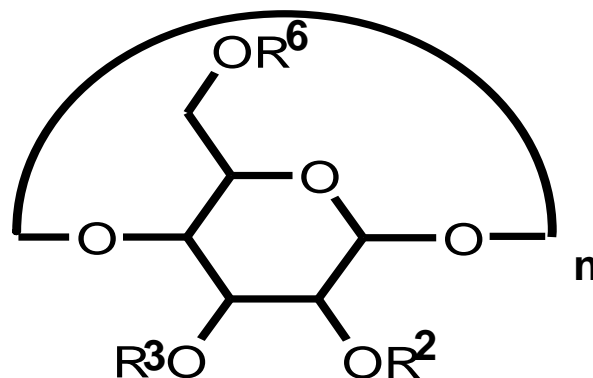
355 (2009)

# C60 / carboxyester modified $\gamma$ CD



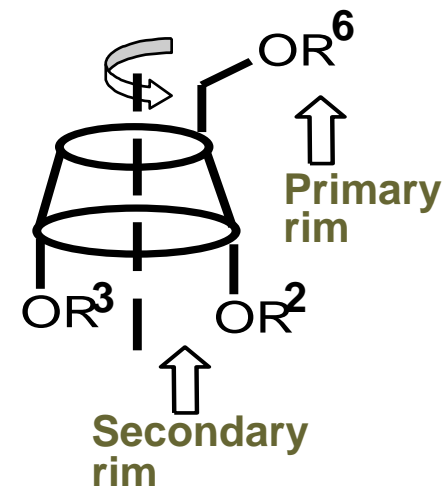
## LB films

n	Modification
6	$R_2=R_3=R_6=Si(CH_3)_3$
7	$R_2=R_3=R_6=Si(CH_3)_3$
8	$R_2=R_3=R_6=Si(CH_3)_3$
7	$R_2=R_3=Si(CH_3)_3$ ; $R_6=SH$



≡

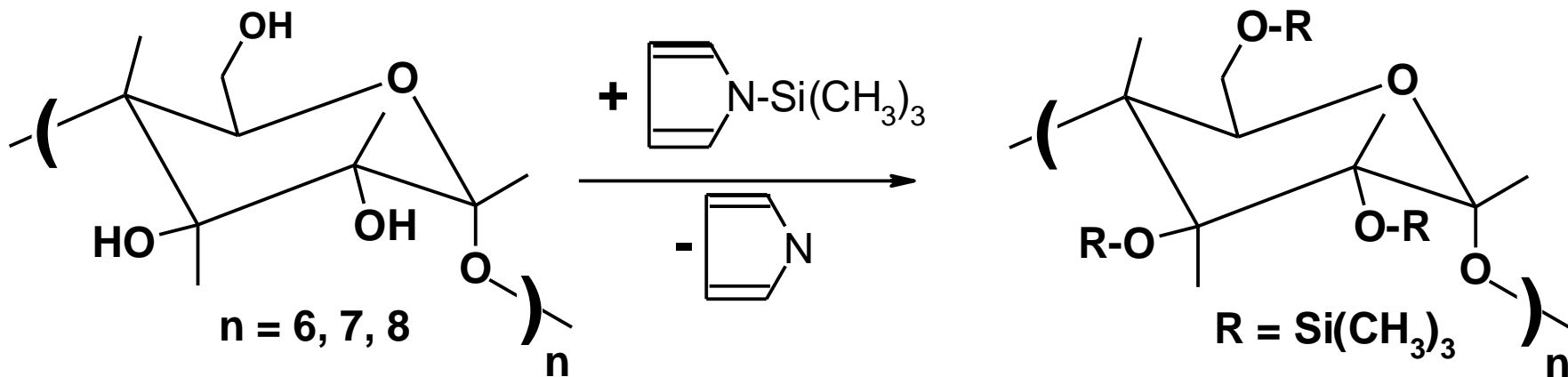
Axis of rotation



- To synthesize well defined modified cyclodextrins with an appropriate hydrophobic-hydrophylic balance
- To demonstrate their LB film forming ability
- To check for possible application of LB films

# Persilylated cyclodextrins ( $CD-Si_{3xn}$ )

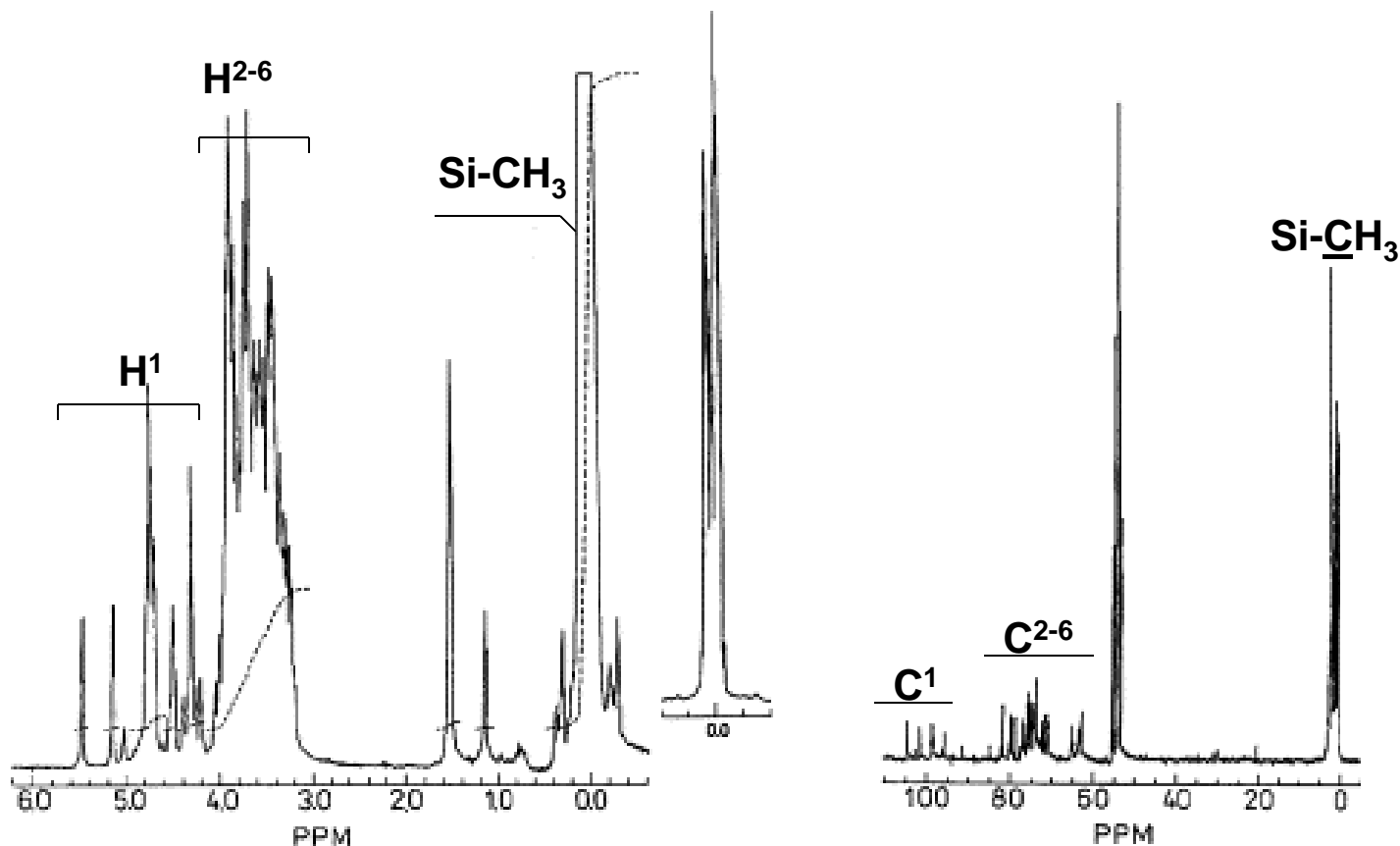
## Preparation



Room temperature  
DMF/chloroform solvent mixture  
100 % yield

V. Harabagiu *et al.*, *Carbohydrate Polymers* **56**, 301 (2004)

# Structural characterisation

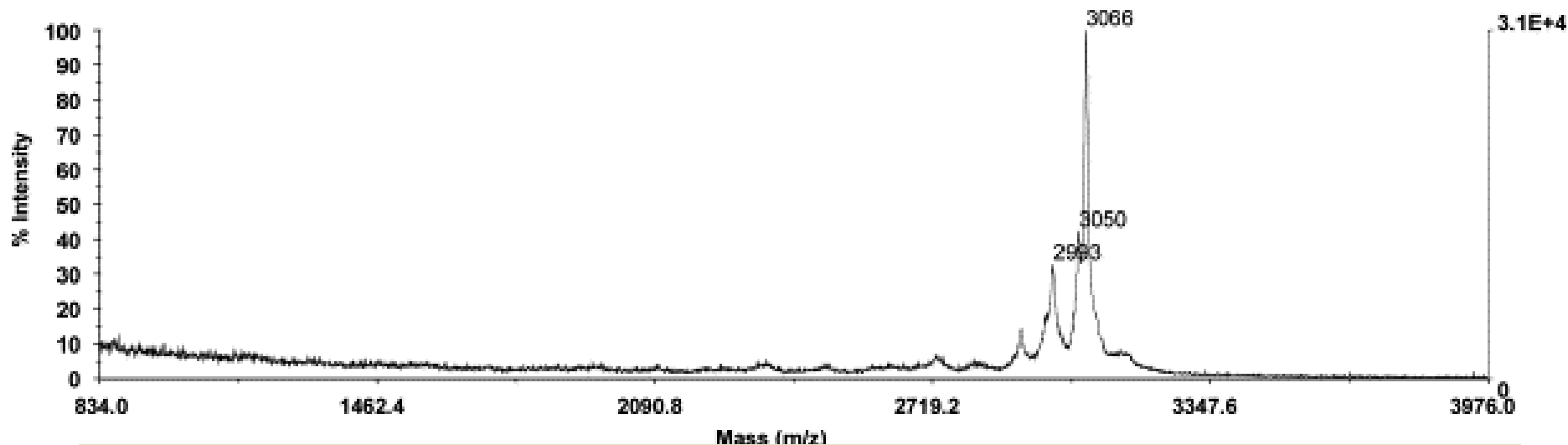


$^1\text{H-}$  and  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectra of  $\alpha\text{-CD-Si}_{3\times 6}$



## MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of $\gamma$ -CD-Si<sub>24</sub>

Voyager Spec #1[BP = 3066.4, 31212]



*obtained with 2-nitrophenyloctyl ether as matrix (5·10<sup>-3</sup> M in THF) (reflected mode)*

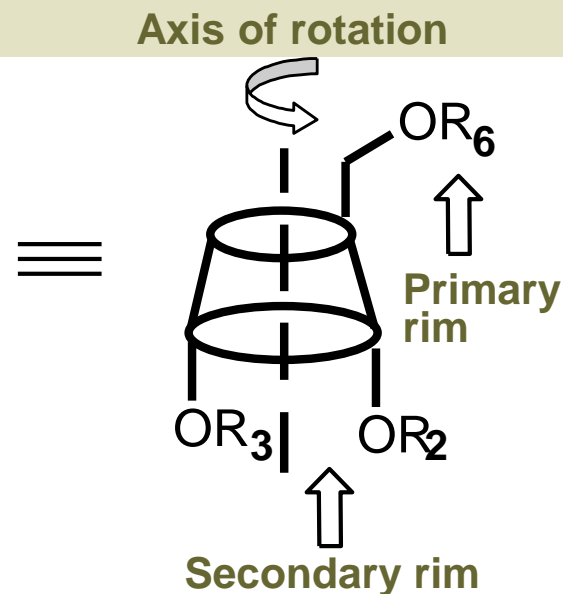
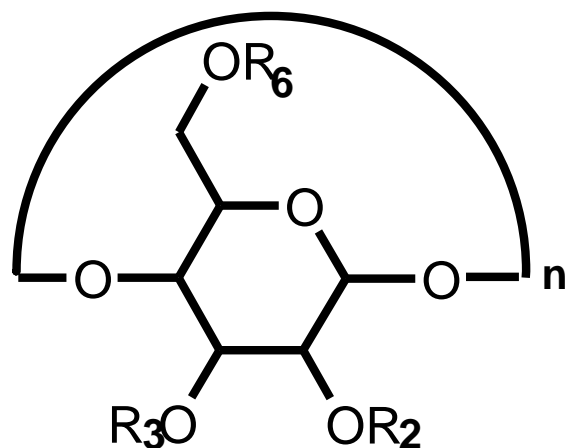
$m/z = 3066: \gamma\text{-CD-Si}_{24} + \text{K}^+$

$m/z = 3050: \gamma\text{-CD-Si}_{24} + \text{Na}^+$

$m/z = 2993: \gamma\text{-CD-Si}_{24} - \text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3 + \text{K}^+$

# LB films

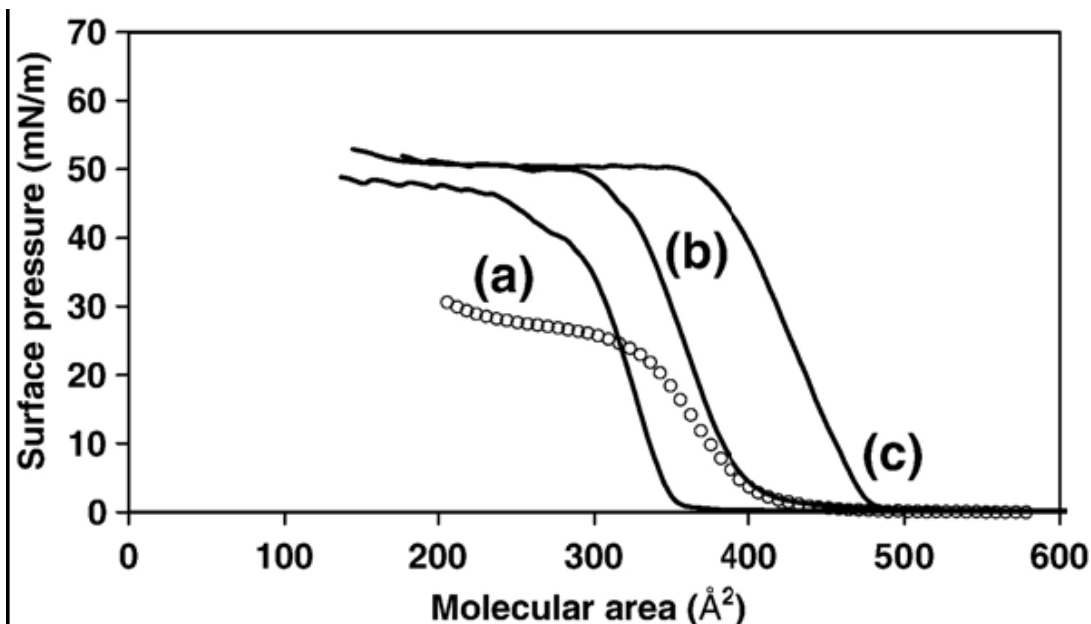
## Structure of modified cyclodextrins



n	Modification
6	$R_2=R_3=R_6=\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$
7	$R_2=R_3=R_6=\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$
8	$R_2=R_3=R_6=\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$
7	$R_2=R_3=\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ; $R_6=\text{SH}$

O. Fichet *et al.*, *Thin Solid Films* (2008)

## Pressure surface isotherms



recorded on a water subphase  
 temperature 20 °C;  
 compression rate,  
 20 Å<sup>2</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>

(a) αCD-Si3x6

(b) βCD-Si3x7

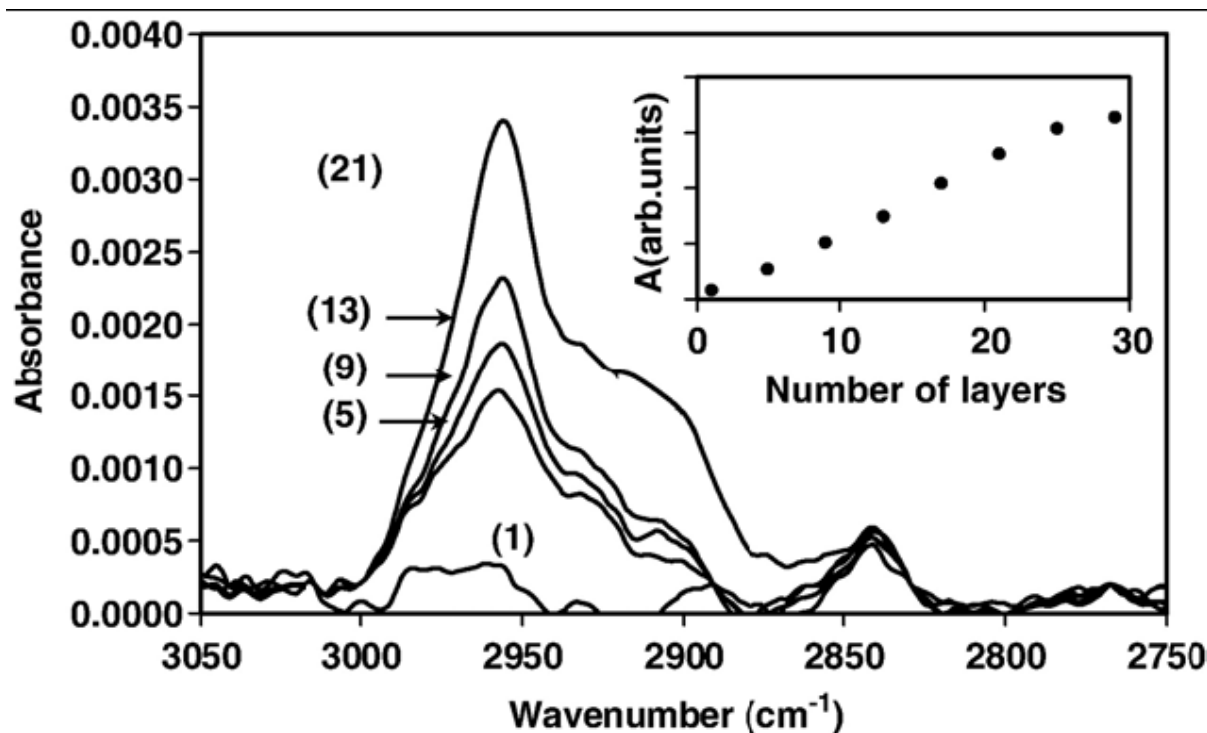
(c) γCD-Si3x8

(○) βCD-7S-14Si

$A_0$	346	400	470	412
$A_{\text{COLL}}$	208	295	356	330

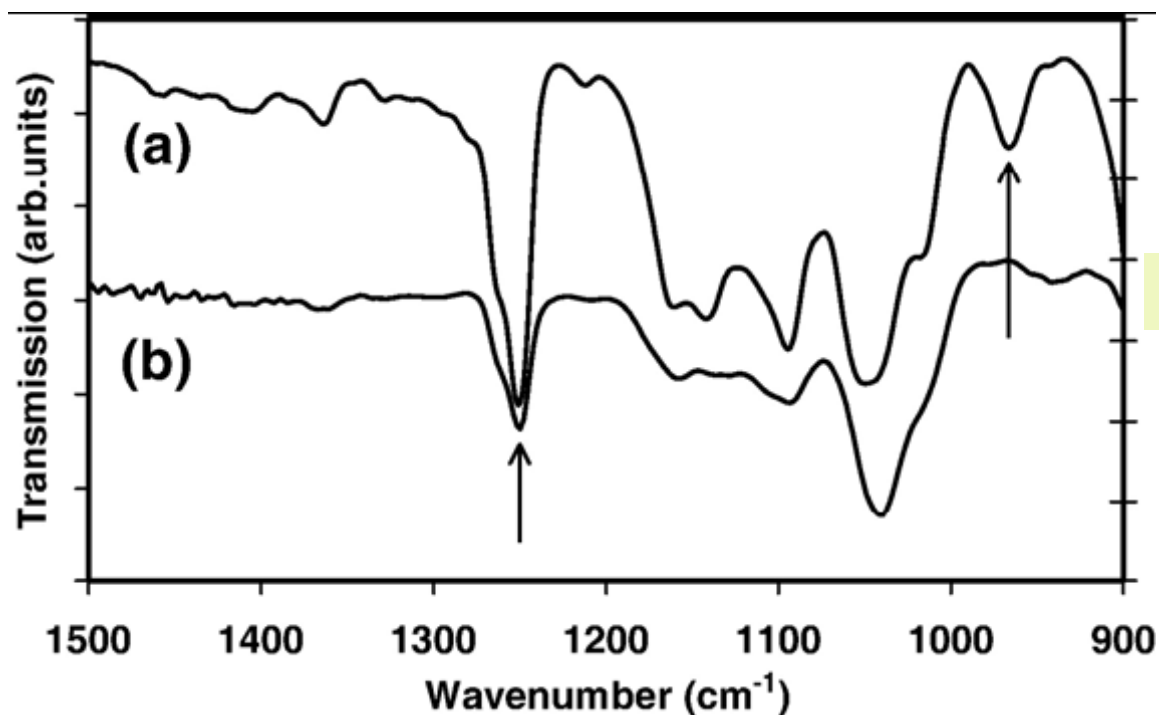
	$A_0$	$A_{\text{COLL}}$	$\pi_{\text{COLL}}$
pC8-βCD	455	428	12
6SiMe <sub>2</sub> tBu-βCD	380	278	47

## Multilayered LB films – chemical structure

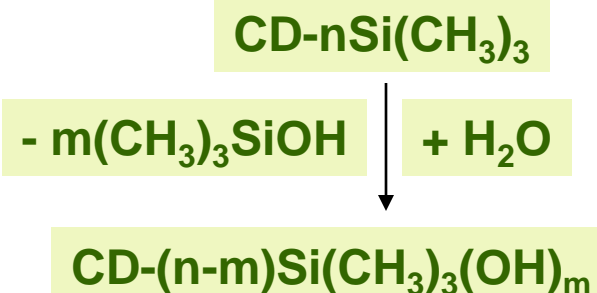


FTIR spectra films in the range 3100–2750 cm<sup>-1</sup> of 1 to 21 layered LB films  
Inserted picture: 2956 cm<sup>-1</sup> absorbance of pTMS- $\beta$ CD-Si<sub>3x7</sub>  
*measured as a function of the number of LB layers*

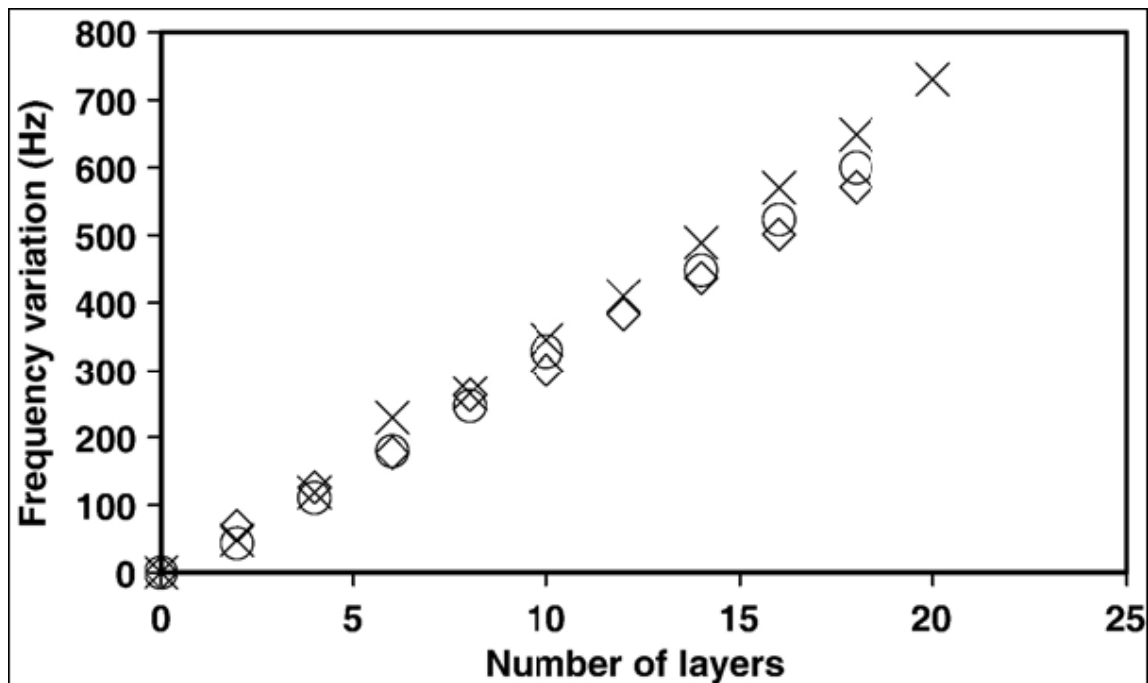
## LB films – chemical structure



### HYDROLYSIS



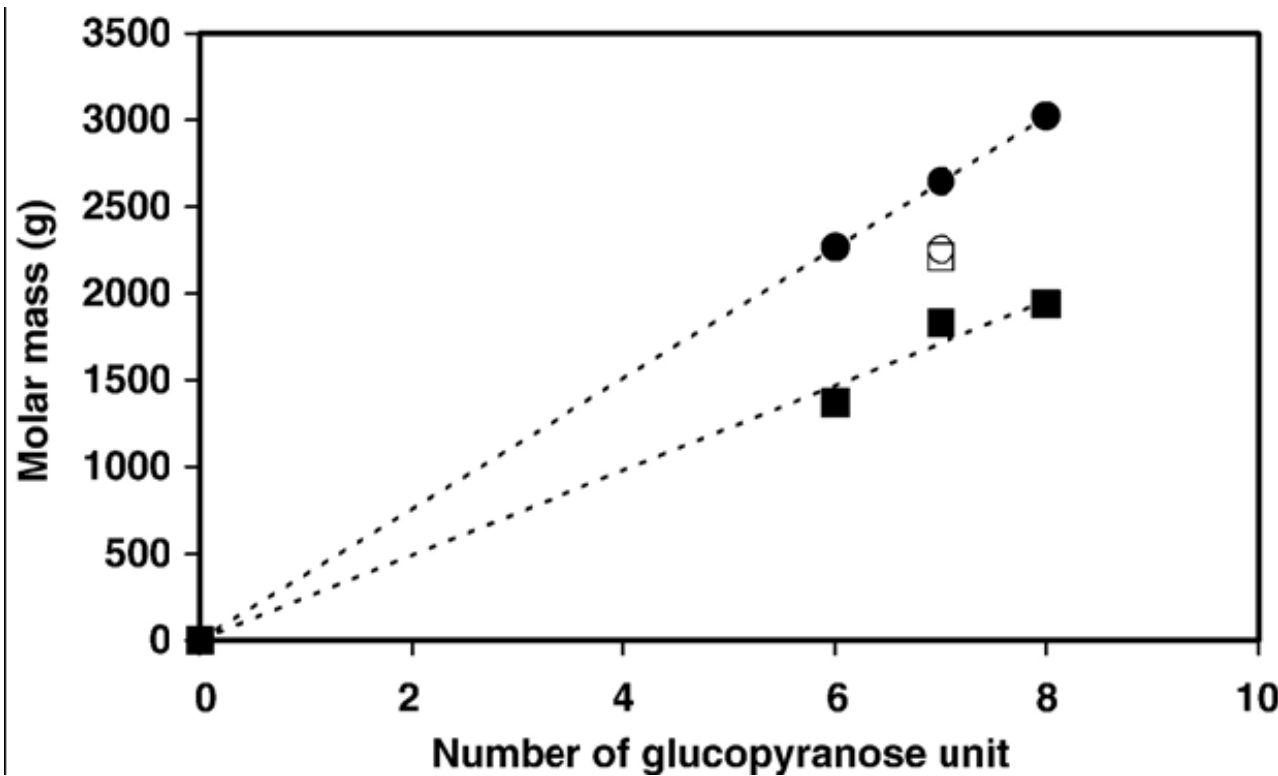
Infrared spectra (10 scans) of  
(a) βCD-Si<sub>3x7</sub> powder (KBr pellet—resolution: 1 cm<sup>-1</sup>)  
(b) 21 layers of pTMS-βCD LB film (CaF<sub>2</sub>—resolution: 4 cm<sup>-1</sup>)



(◇)  $\alpha$ CD-Si<sub>3x6</sub>  
 (×)  $\beta$ CD-Si<sub>3x7</sub>  
 (○)  $\gamma$ CD-Si<sub>3x8</sub>

Frequency change of the quartz crystal microbalance as a function of the number of deposited layers at 30 mN.m<sup>-1</sup>

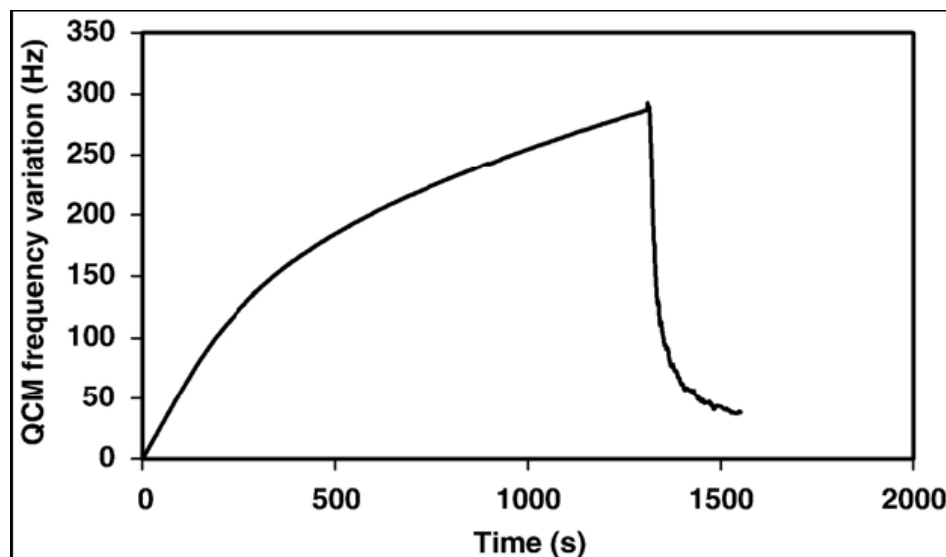
## Molar masses versus D-glucopyranose unit number



(•) theoretical and  
(▪) measured  
values  
of the different  
CD-Si<sub>3xn</sub>  
(○) theoretical and  
(◻) measured  
values  
of βCD-6S-14Si

## APPLICATION of modified CDs LB films

### Arrays for non polar gas sensors

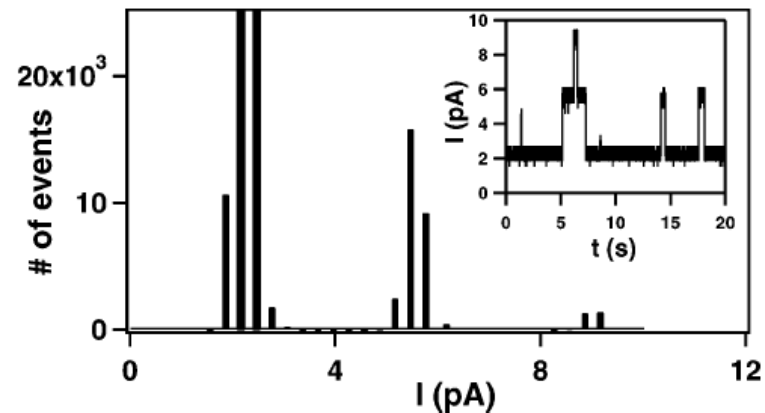


### Benzene vapors up-take

- \* LB films (20 layers) of  $\beta$ CD-Si<sub>3</sub>x<sub>7</sub> exposed to benzene vapours
- \* at  $t = 1200$  s, LB films were removed in air

O. Fichet *et al.*, *Thin Solid Films* (2008)

### CD-7S-14Si ionic channels in lipid membranes



*Asolectin* + CD-7S-14Si  
 $\Delta V = 150$  mV

L. Bacri *et al.*, *Langmuir* **21**,  
5842 (2005)

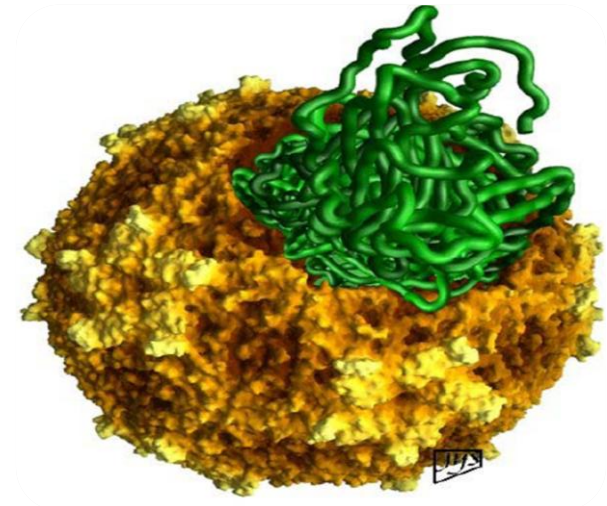
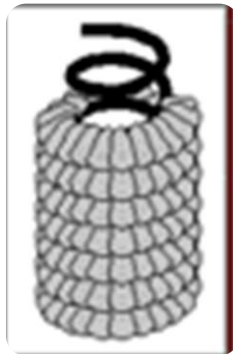
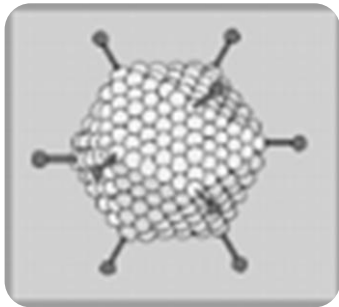




# ***WHAT NATURE KNOWS TO DO ?***

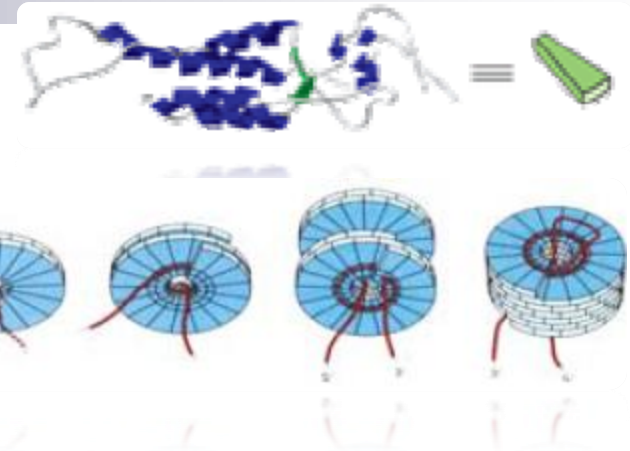
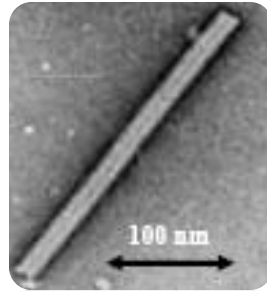
# ***Virusii***

- bio-nano-coloizi
- prezinta, in general, doua forme:
  - icosaedrica
  - helicoidala



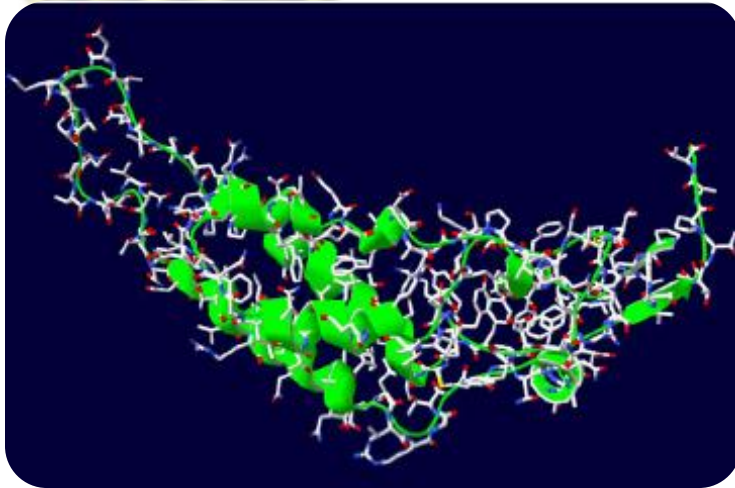
**Scheletul unui burete de mare**

# Virusul mozaicului tutunului (TMV)



**2,130 unitati, Mw 40,000,000**

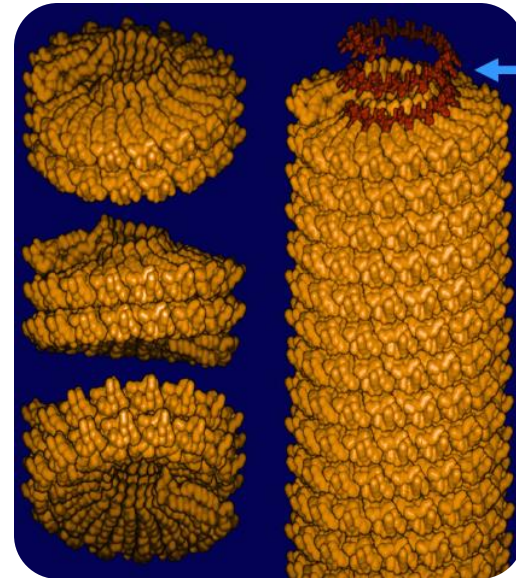
*A. Klug, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl. 1983, 22, 565*



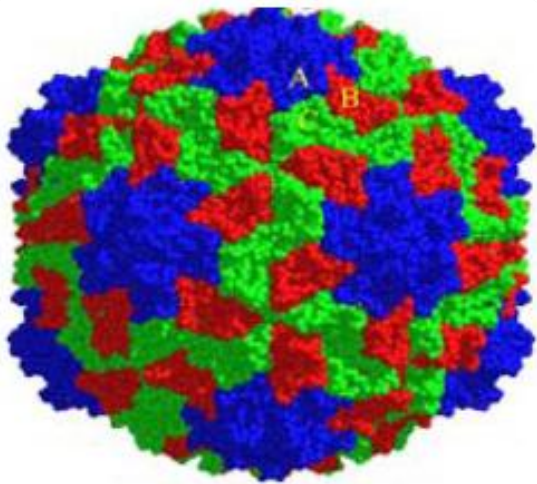
**Lungime ~ 300 nm**

**Intindere ~ 18 nm**

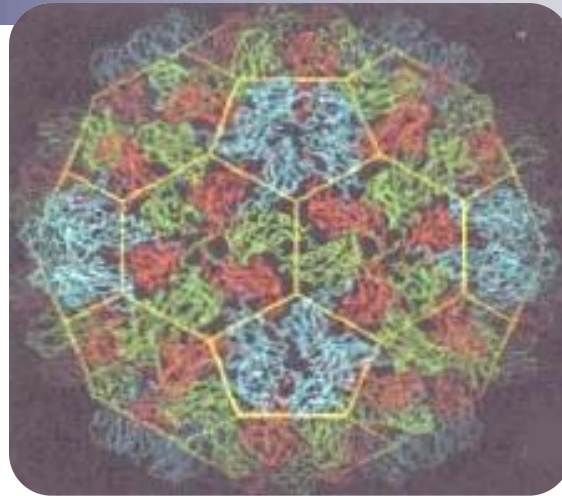
**Agregate liotrope de tipul baghetelor**



**ARN**

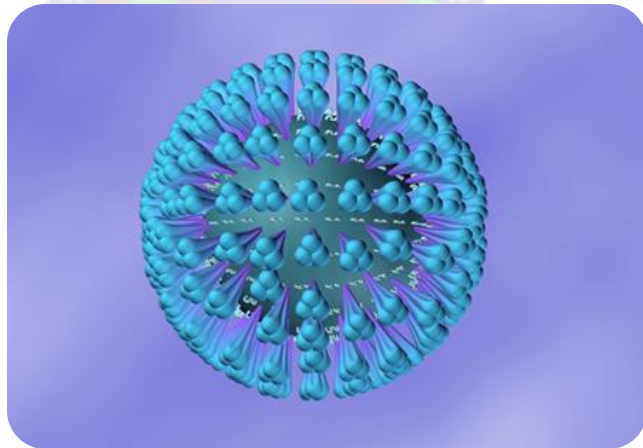


Rice Yellow Mottle Virus



**Structura icosaedrica**  
**180 subunitati identice**  
**(20kD)**  
**Diametru 30 nm**  
**Cavitate interna 18 nm**

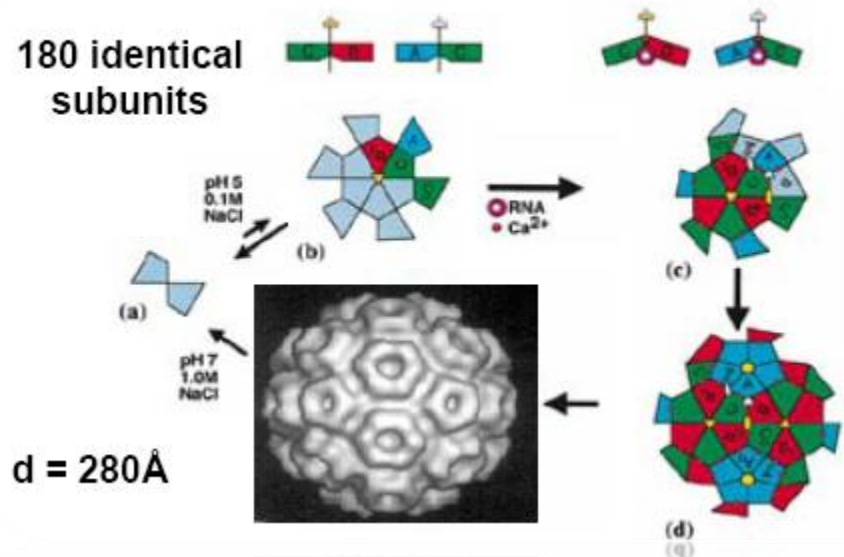
Cowpea Chlorotic Mottle Virus (CCMV)



Virus SARS (sindrom respirator sever acut)

Redrawn from Johnson and Speir, *J. Mol. Biol.* 269, 665.

### Platforma de asamblare pentru CCMV



**???** **!!!**

***evolution from divided to condensed and to organized, living and thinking matter***



***increase in complexity through self-organization***

- Ontogenetic questions:*** how the matter became complex (thinking organisms) starting from elementary particles?
- Epigenetic questions:*** what other complex matter does exist or is to be created?

# ABIOTIC SYNTHESIS OF ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

## “cold theory”

**SYNTHESE ABIOTIQUE DES PORPHIRINES:** C.I. Simionescu et al., 1977

**BIOGENESE:** C.I. Simionescu et al., 1978

simple inorganic compounds = primordial **reducing** atmosphere

highly energetic chemistry

organic compounds

adsorption on the frozen surface of primary ocean  
(prevention of the destructive action of high energy sources)

slow thaw of frozen ocean  
formation of “primordial soup”

organic compounds  
inorganic salts

diverse and more complex compounds

lifeless coarcevates

H<sub>2</sub> CH<sub>4</sub> ?  
CO NH<sub>3</sub> ?  
CO<sub>2</sub>  
H<sub>2</sub>O



- **with O<sub>2</sub>:**  
no amino acids  
no life possible
- **no O<sub>2</sub>:**  
no ozone  
no life possible



- **dilution:** Hull, Nature, 1960
- **incompatibility:** amino acids and sugars destroy each other

# COMPLEX ORGANIZED MATTER – evolution to life

## other mysteries

**Building proteins and nucleic acids**  
**other necessary components of life: lipids, carbohydrates etc.**



- **some components are not available in appropriate state**  
ex.: phosphoric acid required for DNA reacts with  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  - insoluble salt
- **polymerisation**  
through what mechanism the amino acids were transformed into proteins?
- **sequences**  
F. Hoyle (astronomer): “the probability of life evolving anywhere in the universe is likely a tornado sweeping through a junkyard and assembling a Boeing 747”
- **optical isomers**  
how the optical isomers were produced?

**Building biological systems from biological components**

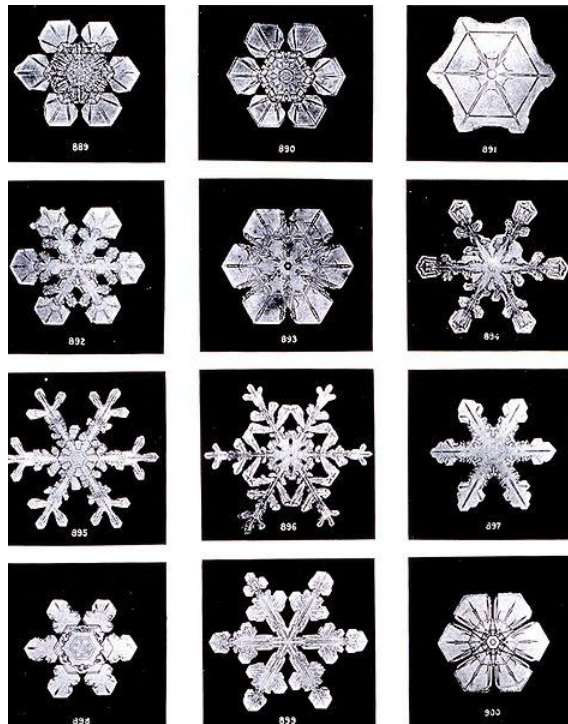


- **mechanism of the controlled building of the systems (how a biological system could arise) ?**

# WATER

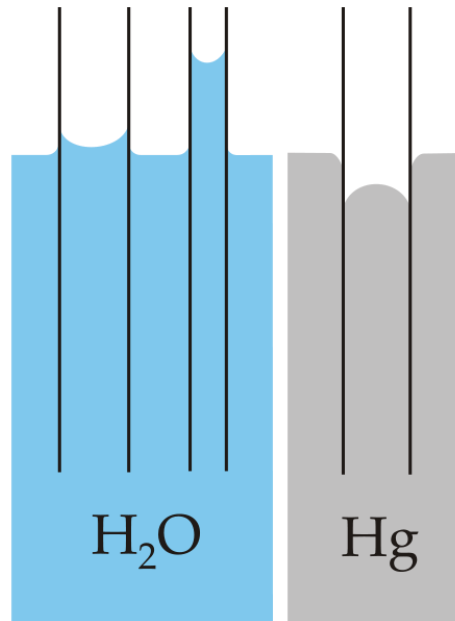
## PROPERTIES

- **self-assembling (crystallization)**
- **dipolar molecule**
- **hydrogen bonding**



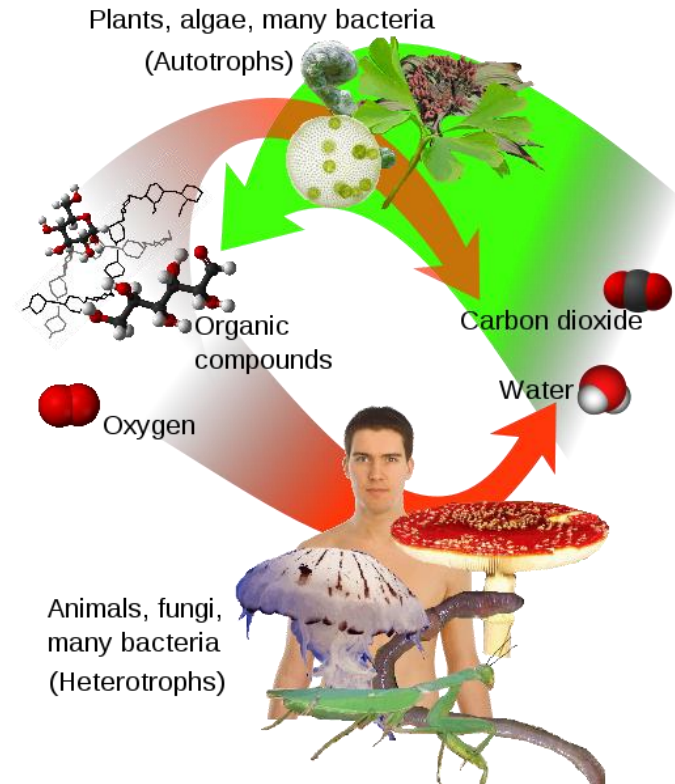
snowflakes

## - capillary action



## WATER AND LIFE

- **solvent for vital organic and inorganic compounds**
- **metabolism component**
- **photosynthesis and respiration**





# SILICATES $(\text{Si-O})_m (\text{O-Metal}^+)_n$

## PROPERTIES

- **large diversity**
- **crystallized or amorphous**

"Island" silicates



"Bow tie" silicates



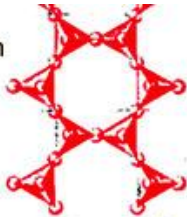
"Ring" silicates



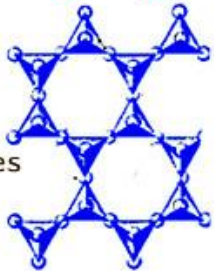
Single chain silicates



Double chain silicates



Sheet silicates



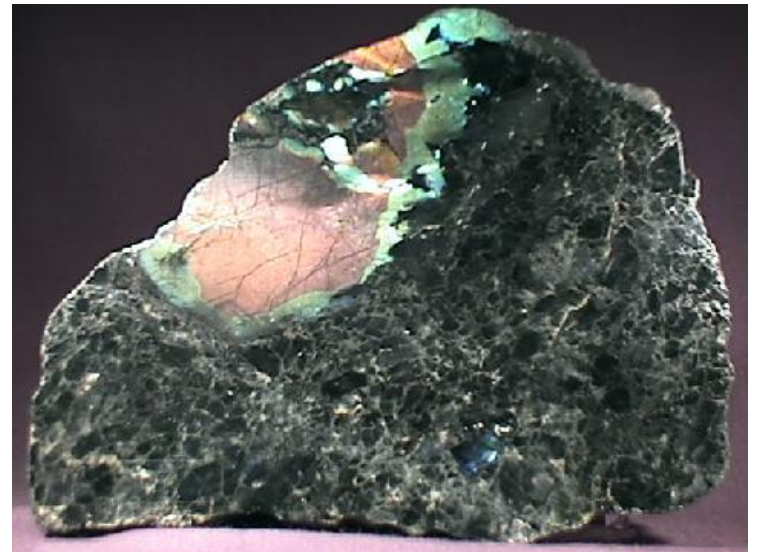
Framework silicates



Geology 306 University of Wisconsin - Madison

## SILICATES AND LIFE IN THE PRIMARY AGE OF EARTH

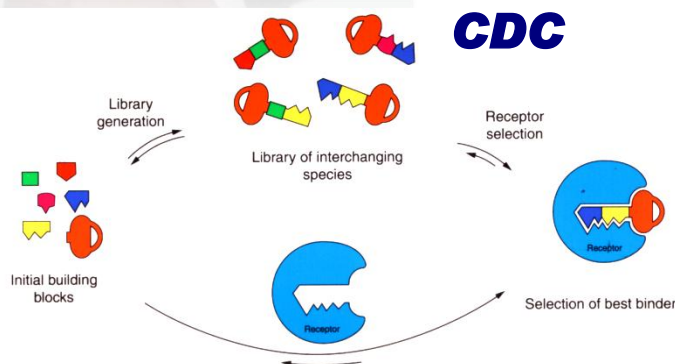
- **were they one of the promoters in the synthesis of organic molecules?**
- **did they represent the template for the structuring (ordering) of organic molecules?**  
**N. Oita, CICATROL, '80**





## **WHERE CHEMISTS ARE?**

**combinatorial dynamic chemistry (CDC)**



**adaptive and evolutive chemistry**

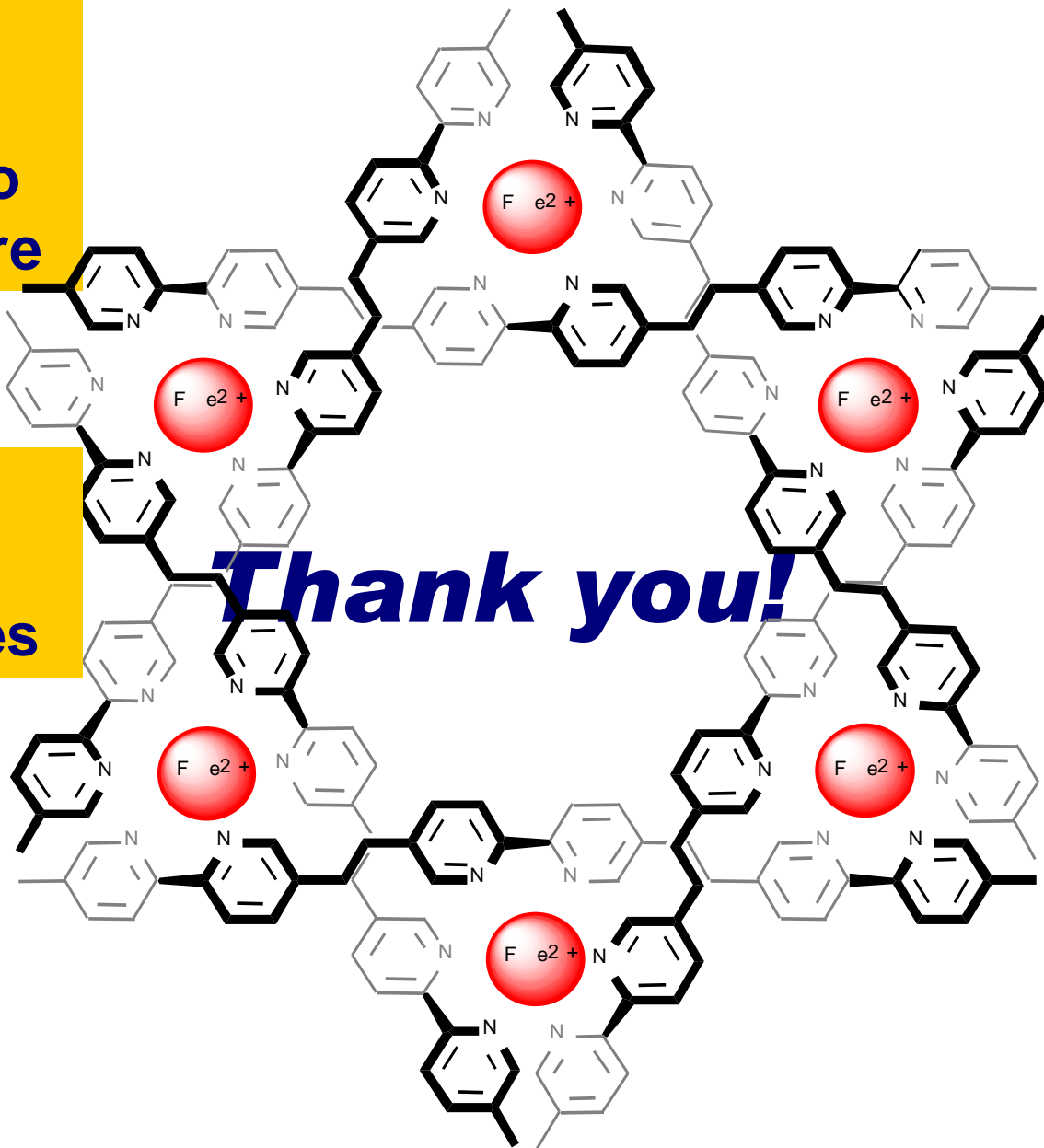
**SUPRAMOLECULAR CHEMISTRY – SCOPE AND PERSPECTIVES**  
**MOLECULES – SUPERMOLECULES – MOLECULAR DEVICES**  
**Nobel lecture, December 8, 1987**

**JEAN-MARIE LEHN**  
**Institut Le Bel, Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg**  
**and Collège de France, Paris**

# Conclusions

Chemists are able to investigate the past, to create the present and to provide links to the future

There is still a long way for human intelligence to match NATURE abilities



**Thank you!**