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Research paper

# Hyperbranched polyester poly(3-diethylaminepropionate)s and their copper(II) complexes: Synthesis, characterization and biological investigation



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## ABSTRACT

New polydentate ligands based on hyperbranched second and third generation polyesters containing terminal (3-diethylamino)propionate fragments and their polynuclear copper(II) complexes were synthesized and characterized by spectroscopic methods. The acid-base properties spectroscopy determined that the functionalization degree of the diethylamine-modified hyperbranched polyesters ( $L^{I}$ ,  $L^{II}$ ) increases from the second (56%) to third (81%) generation. The polynuclear complexes Cu(II)– $L^{I}$  and Cu (II)– $L^{II}$  were observed. A coordination site of the complexes contains paramagnetic fragment CuN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Solv<sub>2</sub> where Solv is H<sub>2</sub>O or DMSO. The hyperbranched poly(ester amine) of the third generation have strong antifungal activity against *Aspergillus fumigatus* culture, and its metal complex is active against *Candida albicans* culture.

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## 1. Introduction

The chemistry of multinuclear coordination metal complexes, especially of coupled systems is of special interest in various fields of science. The main reason probably is due to the phenomenon of interaction between metal centers lying at the crossover point of two widely separated areas, namely the physics of the magnetic materials and the role of polynuclear reaction sites in biological processes [1–3].

Hyperbranched polymers (HBP) can be used for the production of new advanced materials based on polynuclear metal complexes demonstrating biological activity. HBP macromolecules are highly soluble in most organic solvents and exhibit high specific concentration of surface groups and a dimensionally unbound core (nucleus). It justifies the application of HBP as nanoplatforms and nanocontainers for various high- and low-molecular substances [4–6]. Non-toxic biodegradable hyperbranched polyester polyols

\* Corresponding author. *E-mail address:* mkutyreva@mail.ru (M.P. Kutyreva). (HBPO) can be used as a basic structure for the synthesis of new hybrid organic–inorganic materials with the use of an approach comprising sequential functionalization by organic coordinating fragments and metal ions [5,7–9].

The modification of an HBPO platform by nitrogen-containing fragments is more suitable for the production of water-soluble low-toxic biodegradable coordinately active macromolecular structures. The degradation capability of a polyester structure and terminal nitrogen-containing fragments can be provided by hydrolysis and aminolysis processes [10–15].

The primary amines are the most frequently used compounds for the amino-modification of HBP and dendrimers [2,3,16]. However, their presence results in a high cytotoxicity of derivatives for many cellular systems [17]. Functionalization by tertiary amines provides a significant toxicity reduction of HBPO amine derivatives [18]. Another toxicity reduction way is the addition of biophilic metal ions at the second stage of modification. This approach is rather well represented for Cu(II) and Zn(II) organometallic complexes with various generations polypropylenimine and poly (amidoamine) dendrimers [9,19,20]. Meanwhile, metal ions can