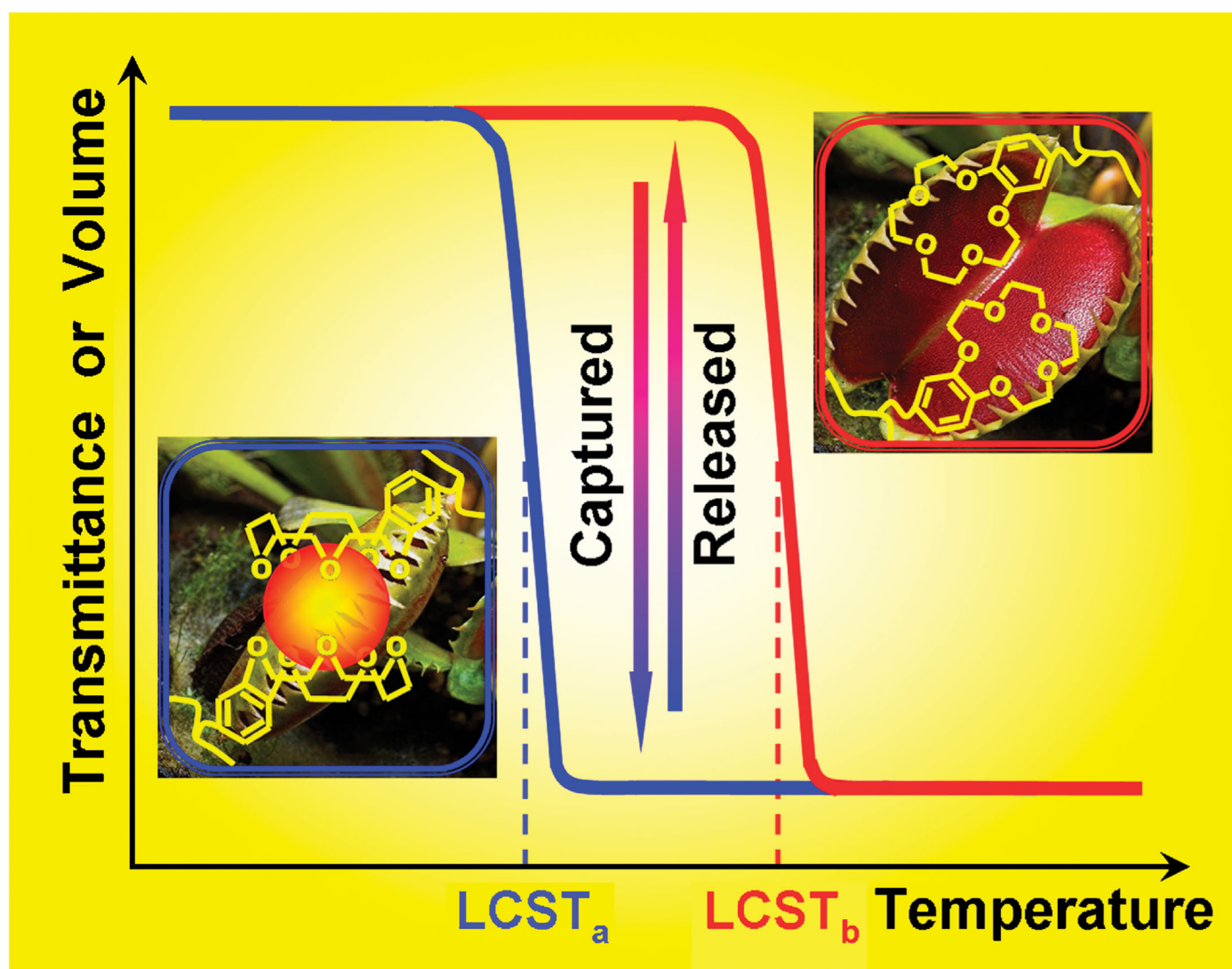


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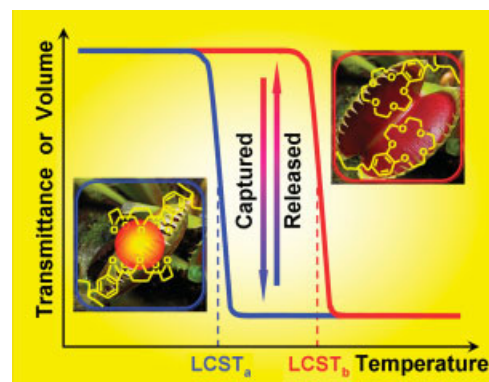
www.mrc-journal.de

Articles published on the web will appear several weeks before the print edition. They are available through:



www.interscience-wiley.com

Cover: The cover picture shows the ion-induced negative-shift of the lower critical solution temperature (LCST) of a novel thermo-responsive smart copolymer. After capturing the guest potassium ions, the LCST value of the copolymer changes from $LCST_b$ to $LCST_a$. The ion-responsive behavior of the smart polymer is similar to the behavior of Venus flytraps. Further details can be found in the article by P. Mi, L.-Y. Chu,* X.-J. Ju, and C. H. Niu on page 27.



Editorial

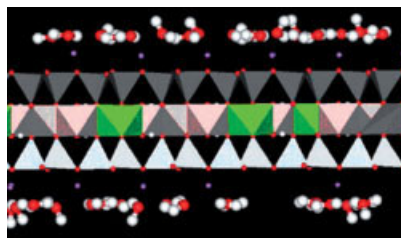
Speed Matters ...

S. Kalveram

Macromol. Rapid Commun. 2008, 29, 11–13

Feature Article

After a brief introduction of the discovery and challenges faced in polymer- and silicate-based nanocomposites, the present report debates the concept of mobility of polymer molecules in confined spaces in intergallery space of the clay. The largest part of the work discusses the crucial crystallisation phenomenon of the polymer matrix in the presence of the silicates. The typical cases of polyamides, poly(ethylene oxide) and poly(propylene) are widely focused on.



Features, Questions and Future Challenges in Layered Silicates Clay Nanocomposites with Semicrystalline Polymer Matrices

C. Harrats,* G. Groeninckx*

Macromol. Rapid Commun. 2008, 29, 14–26