NEW FLUORESCENT CROSSLINKED AROMATIC POLYAMIDES CONTAINING THIOPHENEAND FURANE IN THEIR BACKBONE

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ABSTRACT

New fluorescent crosslinked aromatic polyamides containing phenylen, thiophene and furane groups in the main chain were synthesized by self-condensation from 3-(5-aminothiophen-2-yl)propenoic acid, 3-(5-aminofuran-2-yl)propenoic acid and 3-(4-((5-aminothiophen-2-yl)methyleneamino)phenyl)propenoic acid, 3-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)propenoic acid and 3-(4-((5-nitrofuran-2-yl)propenoic acid and 3-(4-((5-nitrofuran-2-yl)propenoic acid and 3-(4-((5-nitrofuran-2-yl)methyleneamino)phenyl)propenoic by selective reduction of each nitro group and was confirmed by 'H-NMR and FT-IR spectroscopy. Crosslinking of polyamides ocurr by mechanism between vinyl side groups reacts with the vinyl carbon of another chain, giving rise to interchain linear crosslinking. Depending on the structure the polymers have higher degree of crosslinking. Some vinyl groups react by thermal treatmentat 200 °C. Partially crosslinked polyamides with high emission fluorescence were obtained. Consequently amide bond formation, crosslinking and conjugation are the main factors that influence the fluorescence process. While polymers have several factors that affect the fluorescence, we believe that the most significant is the crosslinking of vinyl bonds. Subsequent thermal treatment of polyamides provoked crosslinking increase and fluorescence loss. The effect of the chemical structure was correlated with the thermal decomposition. Polyamides were characterized by UV-visible, FT-IR and 'H-NMR spectroscopy, inherent viscosity and thermogravimetric analysis (TGA). The synthesized polyamides exhibited potential for heat sensitive devices application since the fluorescence can be activated or quenched according to a heating process.

INTRODUCTION

Aromatic polyamides have high thermal stability and good mechanical properties Usually they are intractable, sparingly soluble materials with high softening temperature and therefore, poor proccesability ¹⁻³. Various studies have been conducted by means of synthetic modifications using, for example, flexible linkages[4-6], pendent, bulky, alkyl side groups, luminous aliphatic, cyclic and vinyl bonds 7-11 in the polymer backbone. Polyamides with vinyl groups in their backbones after to be pyrolysed have electrical conductivity ¹². Several soluble polyamides with pendent cyano groups have been reported ^{13,14}. The cyano groups enable the synthesis of heat-resistant cross-linkable polymers with high thermal stability (up to 370 °C). Others polymers that can be crosslinked are those containing vinyl bonds in the main chain 11,15-17. Polymers containing crosslinkable functional groups are interesting since they have practical applications in optoelectronics¹⁸. On the other hand, research on photonic devices using organic materials has received much attention. Very often polymers having phenylene-vinylene, thiophene and furane units in their backbone are utilized in such devices 19-22

On the other hand, researchers have been interested in the synthesis and characterization of fluorescent polymers, e.g. poly(thiophene) substituted with alkylsulfanyl carboxylic acid group exhibit a high fluorescence quantum yield ²³⁻²⁵. A high fluorescence yield is a prerequisite for an electro-luminescent polymeric material, particularly application of conjugated polymers in organic light emitting devices (OLED) utilizing their fluorescence properties^{26,27}, moreover, fluorescent polymeric films may be used as sensors, using an analyte quencher ^{28,29}, enantiomers³⁰ or metallic ions ³¹. A reversible pH sensor for aqueous media based on the fluorescence properties of a poly(thiophene)-gold nanoparticles composite have been reported³².

The objective of the present work is the synthesis and characterization of new fluorescent crosslinked aromatic polyamides containing thiophene and furane in the main chain. A subsequent thermal treatment of polyamides enabled additional crosslinking. Properties such as thermal stability and fluorescence emission were studied. Synthesis and spectroscopic characterization of monomers and new aromatic polyamides are reported.

EXPERIMENTAL

Measurements

I.R. spectra were recorded on a JASCO FT-IR 4200 spectrometer. NMR spectra were registered using TMS as internal reference on a 400 MHz

Bruker spectrometer. UV-Vis spectra were taken on a Perkin–Elmer Lambda 35UV/VIS Spectrometer. Spectra were obtained from a 0.38 gL⁻¹ polymers solution in DMSO. Fluorescence spectra were recorded on a Jasco FP-6200 Spectrofluorometer. Elemental analysis was accomplished on a EA-1108 Fisons Elemental Analyzer. Polymers thermal analysis was carried out at a heating rate of 20 °C min⁻¹ under nitrogen using a TGA Q 50 V20.5 thermal analyzer. Melting points were determined with a Koffer melting point apparatus SMP10. All the measurements were performed under the same conditions. Crosslinking was accomplished placing polyamides into a glass tube and heating by 20-30 min at 200 °C in an oven provided with a digital thermometer.

Reagents and monomers

3-(p-aminophenyl)propenoic acid hydrochloride, DMSO, triphenylphosphite, LiCl, 5-nitrofuran-2-carboxaldehyde, 5-nitrothiophene-2-carboxaldehyde, malonic acid, pyridine, NH₄Cl, Zn powder, Sn grain were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. 3-(5-aminothiophen-2-yl)propenoic acid, 3-(5-aminofuran-2-yl)propenoic and 3-(4-(((5-aminothiophen-2-yl)methylene) amino)phenyl)propenoic acid were synthesized by selective reduction from the respective nitro-aryl-carboxylic acid compound. 3-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)propenoic and 3-(5-nitrothiophen-2-yl)propenoic acid were prepared by condensation between malonic acid and 5-nitrofuraldehyde and 5-nitrothiophene-2-carboxaldehyde respectively in the presence of pyridine. 3-(4-((5-nitrothiophen-2-yl)methyleneamino)phenyl) propenoic acid was synthesized by condensation between 3-(p-aminophenyl)propenoic acid and 5-nitrothiophene-2-carboxaldehyde.

Synthesis

3-(5-nitrothiophen-2-yl)propenoic acid: A 20 mL round-bottom flask, equipped with a reflux condenser, was charged with 0.82 g (7.9 mmole) malonic acid, 1.00 g (6.4 mmole) 5-nitrothiophene-2-carboxaldehyde and 0.62 g (7.8 mmole) pyridine. The mixture was heated in an oil bath and once a solid is formed 0.62 g pyridine was added. The reaction mixture was gradually heated to 150 °C, maintained for five minutes at that temperature and then cooled to room temperature. 20 drops pyridine and 10 mL boiling water were poured into the mixture followed by decantation and filtration of the warm supernatant. The process was repeated several times until complete solid solubilization. The filtered were cooled to room temperature and next acidified to pH 0-2 by the addition of HCl (37 %). After standing for 1 h the solid were separated by filtration. The solid products were jointed and dried at 60 °C in an oven. 0.84 g of a yellow-brown product was obtained, 66.3 % yield, mp= 256° C (decomposed). FT-IR: OH, at 3200-2500 cm⁻¹, C=O, at 1688 cm⁻¹, C=C, at

1529 cm⁻¹, NO₂-, at 1489 cm⁻¹ and at 1430 cm⁻¹, C-O at 1206 cm⁻¹, vinyl bond at 1623 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d6): aromatic CH at 8.12 ppm (1H,d); CH at 7.63 ppm (1H,d); vinyl CH at 7.75 ppm (1H,d), vinyl CH at 6.60 ppm (1H,d); -OH at 12.70 ppm. Elemental analysis, Calcd.: C 42.2, H 2.5, N 7.0, S 16.10. Found: C 41.0, H 1.6, N 6.0, S 12.13.

3-(5-aminothiophen-2-yl)propenoic acid, (ATPA): In a 50 mL roundbottom flask, equipped with a reflux condenser 0.83 g (4.16 mmole) 3-(5-nitrothiophen-2-yl)propenoic acid, 27 mL acetic acid, 1.1 mL water, six drops 37% HCl were placed and the mixture was heated to 95-100 °C. Once dissolved (10 min), 0.60 g tin was added and after 20 min 0.28 g tin and 5 drops HCl (37 %) were added. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 2 h after which the hot mixture was filtered, concentrated to half its volume followed by volume duplication with water. The mixture was left standing for 48 h and then vacuum-filtered, washed with a small amount of water and finally dried at 60 °C. 0.30 g of product was obtained, 42.5 % yield. mp > at 300° C. FT-IR: NH + OH, at 3700-3000 cm⁻¹, C=O, at 1688 cm⁻¹, C-O at 1206 cm⁻¹, vinyl bond at 1618 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d6): aromatic CH at 8.10 ppm (1H,d); CH at 7.60 ppm (1H,d); vinyl CH at 7.75 ppm (1H,d), vinyl CH at 6.58 ppm (1H,d); -OH at 12.6 ppm, NH, at 2.50 ppm.

3-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl) propenoic acid: In a 50 mL round-bottom flask, equipped with a reflux condenser 3.0 g (17 mmole) 5-nitrofuraldehyde, 2.46 g (24 mmole) malonic acid and 1.86 g (24 mmole) pyridine were placed. The mixture was heated to 150 °C, cooled to room temperature, next, the solid was extracted two times using 20 mL ethanol to boiling and then, again extracted the solid with ethanol to boiling that contain 20 drops pyridine, the extraction process of the solid using a mix ethanol-pyridine was repeated five times, then all the extracts were boiled and filtered. The filtrates were gathered and concentrated to half its volume by solvent evaporation. The mixture volume was duplicated by adding water, and finally acidified with HCl (37%) to pH 0-2 under stirring. The obtained mixture was left standing for 2 h and then filtered. The solid product was dried at 60 °C in an oven. 1.20 g of product was obtained (30.0 % vield), mp = 158-160 °C (decomposed). FT-IR: OH, at 2906 cm⁻¹ (broad), C=O, at 1678 cm⁻¹, C=C, at 1573 cm⁻¹, C-O at 1201 cm⁻¹, vinyl bond at 1623 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d6): aromatic CH at 7.76 ppm (1H,d); CH at 7.28 ppm (1H,d); vinyl CH at 7.46 ppm (1H,d), vinyl CH at 6.51 ppm (1H,d); -OH at 12.88 ppm (1H,s). Elemental analysis, Calcd .: C 45.9, H 2.8, N 7.6, O 43.7. Found: C 44.8, H 2.4, N 6.6, O 46.2.

3-(5-aminofuran-2-yl)propenoic acid, (AFPA):A 20 mL round-bottom flask, equipped with a reflux condenser it was charged with 0.45 g (2.5 mmole) 3-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)propenoic acid, 8 mL acetic acid, 0.6 mL water and 3 drops 37% HCl and the mixture was heated and once solubilized, 0.30 g tin was added and refluxed under stirring during 100 min. The hot mixture was filtered and the filtrate was concentrated to half its volume by evaporation, cooled to room temperature, its volume duplicated with water, left standing, and finally filtrated and dried at 60 °C in an oven. 0.14 g was obtained. (33.2 % yield), mp >300 °C. FT-IR: OH, at 3423 cm⁻¹, C=O, at 1718 cm⁻¹, C=C, at 1655 cm⁻¹, C-O at 1231 cm⁻¹, vinyl bond at 1589 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO): aromatic CH at 7.0 ppm (1H,d); CH at 6.9 ppm (1H,d); vinyl CH at 7.2 ppm (1H,d), vinyl CH at 6.5 ppm (1H,d); NH, at 3.6 ppm.

3-(4-(((5-nitrothiophen-2-yl)methylene)amino)phenyl)propenoic acid: In a 100 mL round-bottomed flask, equipped with a reflux condenser, were added 0.63 g (4.1 mmol) 5-nitro-2-thiophene-2-carboxaldehyde dissolved in 20 mL of heated ethanol, 0.80 g (4.0 mmole) 3-(p-aminophenyl)propenoic acid hydrochloride dissolved in 40 mL hot ethanol, the mixture was heated during 1 h under stirring, then, it was immediately vacuum filtered. The solid was then washed with ethanol and dried at 60 °C. 0.17 g product was obtained (yield 14.1 %). mp = 276 °C (decomposed). FT-IR: OH, at 2816 cm⁻¹ (broad), C=O, at 1678 cm⁻¹, NO₂-, at 1489 cm⁻¹ and 1420 cm⁻¹, C-O at 1211 cm⁻¹, vinyl bond at 1618 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d6): CH thiophene ring at 8.20 ppm (1H,d); CH thiophene ring at 7.75 ppm (1H,d); CH=N at 8.95 ppm (1H; s); CH phenylene at 7.78 ppm (2H, d), CH phenylene at 7.39 ppm (2H,d), vinyl CH at 7.61 ppm (1H,d), vinyl CH at 6.56 ppm (1H,d); -OH at 12.5 ppm (1H,s).

3-(4-(((5-aminothiophen-2-yl)methylene)amino)phenyl)propenoic acid, (ATIPA):

1.0 g nitro-compound (3.3 mmol), 25 mL de methanol, 2.8 mL of water, 0.52 g NH₄Cl 50 mL were placed in a round-bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser. The stirred mixture was heated for 10 min after which 3.5 g of Zn powder was slowly added. The mixture was now heated during 105 min at 71 °C, and the hot mixture vacuum filtered, concentrated to half its volume, cooled in a water bath for 15 min or until separation of a solid occurs. The mixture was filtered, washed with ebulled methanol and dried at 60 °C in an oven. 0.17 g amino compound was obtained (18.9 % yield), mp = 255 °C (decomposed). FT-IR: OH, at 3219, cm⁻¹ (broad), C=O, at 1633 cm⁻¹, C-O at

1249 cm⁻¹, vinyl bond at 1598 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d6): CH phenylen at 5.48 ppm (2H,d); CH phenylen at 6.53 ppm (2H,d); CH vinyl at 6.14 ppm, NH_2 at 3.64 ppm, CH=N + CH vinyl + CH thiophene at 7.23 ppm (4H, m).

Synthesis of polymers

Polyamides were synthesized under the same experimental condition using the phosphorylation method. Triphenylphosphite was used as initiator and polymers can be produced with higher molecular weight³³. 3-(5-aminothiophen-2-yl)propenoic acid polymerization was accomplished as follow: to a 20 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser 1.54 mmol monomer, 0.72 mL DMF, 0.72 mL pyridine, 0.44 g triphenylphosphite and catalytic amounts of LiCl were added. The mixture was heated to 110-120 °C for 17 h, concentrated to half its volume, cooled to room temperature, 10 mL water added and stirred. After being left standing for 10 min, the solid was filtrated off and successively washed with a small amount of 3 M HCl, water, and methanol. The polymer was dried at 60 °C in an oven, and 0.24 g was obtained.

3-(5-aminofuran-2-yl) propenoic acid polymerization was performed using 1.1 mL DMF, 1.1 mL pyridine, 0.44 g triphenylphosphite, and for 3-(4-((5-aminothiophen-2-yl) methyleneamino)phenyl) propenoic acid polymerization 12.9 mL DMF, 4.8 mL pyridine and 0.97 g initiator were utilized. 0.22 and 0.071 g of the respective polymer was obtained.

In the present work, polyamides obtained from 3-(5-aminothiophene-2yl)propenoic acid and 3-(5-aminofuran-2-yl)propenoic acid were called PTPA and PFPA respectively. Monomers of those polymers are designated ATPA and AFPA respectively. Polyamide synthesized from 3-(4-((5-aminothiophen-2yl)methyleneamino) phenyl)propenoic acid is called PTIPA and its respective monomer ATIPA.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 1 depicts monomers synthesis scheme. 3-(5-nitrothiophene-2yl)propenoic acid, 3-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)propenoic acid, were obtained by condensation of malonic acid with 5-nitrothiophene-2-carboxaldehyde and 5-nitrofuraldehyde in the presence of pyridine. Selective reduction of the nitro compounds in the presence of vinyl bonds was accomplished using a Sn/AcOH/HC1 mixture. 3-(4-((5-nitrothiophen-2-yl)methyleneamino) phenyl) propenoic reduction was performed using a Zn/NH₄Cl/H₂O mixture. Sn/AcOH/HC1 mixture hidrolyzes the imine group and was thus discarded. Selective reduction of each nitro group was confirmed by ¹H-NMR and FT-IR spectroscopy. ¹H-NMR exhibited vinyl hydrogen signals with a coupling constant of 17 Hz ³⁴.





Fig. 1: Synthesis of a) ATPA, b) AFPA, c) ATIPA monomers

Polyamides FT-IR spectra are shown in Fig. 2. PTPA, PFPA and PTIPA show characteristic absorption bands at 3200 cm⁻¹ (NH+OH); 1684, 1713, 1657 cm⁻¹ (C=O); 1594, 1593, 1588 cm⁻¹ (vinyl bond); 1483, 1490, 1487 cm⁻¹ (aromatic CH=CH). The characteristic bands of carbonyl and NH group in all spectra confirm the presence of amide groups.



Fig. 2: Polyamides FT-IR spectra. a) PTPA, b) PFPA, c) PTIPA



Fig. 3: Polyamides ¹HNMR spectra. a) PTPA, b) PFPA, c) PTIPA

¹H-NMR spectra in Fig. 3 exhibit doublet and triplet signals in the aromatic region. The triplet signals in the aromatic region is a corroboration of polyamides crosslinking, therefore after polymerization two chemical processes are accomplished: i) formation of amide groups and, ii) crosslinking between the vinyl bonds of different chains. Using a standard structure (ethyl cinnamate), Sung et al. ³⁵, have reported two reaction mechanisms between vinyl side groups attached to polymer backbones that participate in the crosslinking. In the first mechanism one vinyl carbon reacts with the vinyl

carbon of another chain, giving rise to interchain linear crosslinking. In the second mechanism, the two vinyl carbons react with two vinyl carbons of another chain affording an interchained cyclobutyl group. This mechanism is called addition [2+2] and is based upon a pericyclic reaction. However, from an energetic view point, this reaction is rather hindered due to molecular orbital geometric constraint^{36,37}. The absence of aliphatic signals and the presence of triplet signals in the aromatic indicating that the mechanism of crosslinking is predominant interchain linear (Fig. 4 a, b, c).



Fig. 4: Polyamides proposed structure, a) PTPA, b) PFPA, c) PTIPA

Not all the vinyl bonds are crosslinked by the polymerization, this is confirmed by optical absorption. Fig. 5 shows absorption spectra of polymers dissolved in DMSO. The absorption bands correspond to π - π * as well as n- π * transitions. PTPA and PFPA exhibited an absorption maximum at 270 and 260 nm, apart from a broad plateau band at approximately 330 nm. PTIPA has absorption maximum at 360 nm and shifts to higher wavelength than PTPA and PFPA due to the greater conjugation of its backbone. PFPA has a smaller PTPA conjugation and is due to the greater rupture in conjugation by formation of increased crosslinking.



Fig. 5: Polyamides absorption spectra. a) PTPA, b) PFPA, c) PTIPA

Some vinyl groups react by thermal treatment. After thermal treatment, PTPA, PFPA,PTIPA bands are blue shifted 7, 8 and 11 nm respectively. This is confirmed measurement the intensity ratio between two absorption bands (Fig. 6), which were increased to 3.45, 1.70 and 1.23 for PTPA, PFPA and PTIPA respectively. The increased intensity ratio indicated the decreasing of conjugated system. These results indicated that the polymerization process because a band shift is associated to conjugation loss, while the absorption ratio increase is related to vinyl group decrease. These results confirmed the presence of some vinyl groups in the polyamides, therefore non-crosslinked structural units do remain in the polyamides. The proposed structures are showed in Fig. 4d and 4e.



Fig. 6: Intensity ratio of two absorption bands. a) PTPA, b) PFPA, c) PTIPA. Insets, no thermal treatment

The Thermal treatment consisted in heating PFPA and PTIPA at 200 °C for 30 min and PTPA during 20 min. The crosslinking temperature was chosen from thermograms (TGA) to obtain polymers without substantial mass loss or to avoid decomposition. The heating time was established by determining the time elapsed until the monitored FT-IR vinyl band intensity reached its lowest value. This heat-treatment afforded maximum crosslinking. Fluorescence results and thermal treatment of the polymers are displayed in Figs. 7 and 8. Emission at 660 nm correspond to second-order diffraction of the emission monochromator grating (exc. 330 nm). PTPA and PFPA spectra are similar and exhibited high fluorescence emission. Quenching is produced in both polymers after thermal treatment is activated fluorescence reaching an intensity of 380 (Fig. 8).

While polymers have several factors that affect the fluorescence, we believe that the most significant is the crosslinking of vinyl bonds. In fact, we prepared poly(p-aminophenyl propenoic acid)¹¹ and this presents fluorescence activation by thermal treatment (Fig. 9), a similar result occurs in PTIPA.



Fig. 7: Polymers fluorescence spectra. λexc at 330 nm, a) PTPA, b) PFPA, C) PTIPA



Fig. 8: Polyamides fluorescence spectra after thermal treatment. a) PTPA ($\lambda_{exc} = 258 \text{ nm}$), b) PFPA ($\lambda_{exc} = 258 \text{ nm}$), c) PTIPA ($\lambda_{exc} = 347 \text{ nm}$).



Fig. 9: Fluorescence spectra (λ exc = 380 nm) of a) poly(p-aminophenyl propenoic) and b) poly(p-aminophenyl propenoic) after thermal treatment.

PTPA, PFPA, PTIPA monomers are designated ATPA, AFPA, ATIPA respectively. Figure 10 shows the results of monomers fluorescence emission. The fluorescence of monomer and polymers are different. ATPA presented no fluorescence while AFPA displayed an intensity of 820 at 480 nm. ATIPA exhibited maximum fluorescence emission at 425 nm with an intensity of 380. Consequently amide bond formation, crosslinking and conjugation are the main factors that influence the fluorescence process.



Fig.10: Monomers fluorescence spectra. a) ATPA (λ exc = 330 nm), (b) AFPA (λ exc = 367 nm), C) ATIPA (λ exc = 348 nm).

On the other hand, Fig. 11depicts TGA thermograms of the synthesized polyamides (left curves) and TGA thermogramms of polyamides after thermal treatment (right curves). The weight loss below 120 °C can be attributed to adsorbed moisture. PTPA, PFPA, PTIPA have similar thermal stability since their 5% weight loss took place at 232°, 195° and 200°C respectively. The sharp drop in PTPA and PFPA thermograms at 228 °C may be related to carbonyl group decomposition, while the abrupt break at 200 °C for PTIPA might be related to carboxy-ethenyl group decomposition. PFPA exhibited the lowest thermal stability. The thermal stability changed afterthermal treatment. All polymers presented greater thermal stability when treated at 200°C. In fact, PTPA, PFPA and PTIPA 5% weight loss occurred at 244, 266 and 254 °C respectively. Polyamides heating brings about additional crosslinking, suggesting that some vinyl groups remain without reacting during the polymerization process.

Furthermore, PFPA and PTIPA inherent viscosity, using DMSO as solvent, was determined on a Desreux-Bischoff type viscometer at 26 °C. The results, 0.17 and 0.11dL g⁻¹ respectively, indicated a low degree of polymerization. PTPA low solubility in DMSO precluded inherent viscosity measurement.



Fig. 11: Polyamides thermograms a) PTPA, b) PFPA, c) PTIPA. Right after thermal treatment

CONCLUSIONS

New fluorescent crosslinked polyamides containing thiophenyl, furanyl and vinyl groups in their main chain were synthesized by self-condensation from amino-aryl-carboxylic acids. PTPA and PFPA possess high fluorescence emission, however the radiation process decreased after thermal treatment. PTIPA exhibited no fluorescence.

The formation of amide bond, crosslinking, conjugationare are the main factors influencing fluorescence emission.

Polyamides presented fair thermal stability, however increasing their crosslinking degree by heat-treatment a thermal stability rise is attained.

Finally, the synthesized polyamides exhibited potential for heat sensitive devices application since the fluorescence can be activated or quenched according to a heating process.

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