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Takashi Hiraoka^a, Atsuko Fujita^a, Yasuhiro Kubo^a, Shuichi Matsui^a & Kazutoshi Miyazawa^a

^a Chisso Petrochemical Corporation, Goi Research Center, Ichihara, Japan Published online: 05 Oct 2009.

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Novel Liquid Crystalline Four Ring Chain Difluoromethyleneoxy Compounds for Quicker Response LC Mixtures

Takashi Hiraoka, Atsuko Fujita, Yasuhiro Kubo, Shuichi Matsui, and Kazutoshi Miyazawa

Chisso Petrochemical Corporation, Goi Research Center, Ichihara, Japan

A series of chemically stable novel liquid crystalline four ring chain compounds (1a-1c) having a difluoromethyleneoxy (CF₂O) linkage moiety have been designed and prepared, and their properties have been thoroughly investigated. The novel compounds intrinsically possess much higher positive $\Delta \varepsilon$ (>32) and Δn (>0.190), relatively low viscosity, wider nematic phase temperature ranges and significantly higher clearing temperatures in comparison to the analogous three ring chain CF₂O compound (2) that is currently applied in almost all the latest TN-TFT monitors, notebook PCs and IPS-TVs.

Keywords: difluoromethyleneoxy; four ring chain; nematic mixtures

INTRODUCTON

The vastly expanding market and the leap of the LC display (LCD) performance, continuously and endlessly require property improvement of liquid crystalline materials. In particular, liquid crystalline materials exhibiting much quicker response characteristics and better performances in stability and reliability, that are directly proportional to the LCD quality, have strongly been demanded. In order to fulfill the requirements, the practically applied optimized nematic liquid crystal mixtures are designed as a combination of polar compounds

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Address correspondence to Takashi Hiraoka, Chisso Petrochemical Corporation, Goi Research Center, 5-1 Goikaigan, Ichihara, Chiba 290-0058, Japan. E-mail: t.hiraoka@ chisso.co.jp



FIGURE 1 Chemical structures of compounds 1a-1c and 2.

and lower viscous non-polar compounds. In particular, the characteristics of the polar compounds relate to the response time and the driving voltage of the LCDs, therefore, it is important to develop novel polar liquid crystal materials with better properties. We have designed and prepared the three ring chain compound (2) with a CF₂O linkage moiety as a high performance polar liquid crystal compound [1]. The compound shows high $\Delta\varepsilon$ and low rotational viscosity (γ 1) and therefore it can contribute to low voltage driving and quick response. However, the compound 2 has no nematic phase and exhibits the low melting temperature (49.1°C), which results the significant decrease of the clearing point (T_{NI}) when doped in the lower viscous non-polar compounds. To overcome these difficulties, we have designed and synthesized the novel CF₂O compounds containing the four ring chain structure (**1a**-**1c**) [Fig. 1].

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Materials

The compounds 1a-1c, were synthesized according to the synthetic scheme shown in Scheme 1. The compounds (3) $(R = {}^{n}C_{3}H_{7}, {}^{n}C_{4}H_{9})$,



SCHEME 1 Synthetic scheme of compounds 1a-1c.

 ${}^{n}C_{5}H_{11}$) were prepared by Suzuki cross-coupling reaction of 3,5difluorophenylboronic acid and the corresponding 4-(4-alklylphenyl)-2-fluorophenyl iodides according to the literature [2]. The compounds **3** were treated with ⁿBuLi in tetrahydrofurane at -70° C, followed with CBr₂F₂ to give the difluoromethylbromides (4). The etherification of the compounds **4** with 3,4,5-trifluorophenol in a basic condition (K₂CO₃ in H₂O at 100°C) resulted in the desired compounds **1a-1c**.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Measurement Conditions and Instruments

¹H-NMR: Bruker DRX 500 (500 MHz); δ (ppm) = 7.26 for chloroform. ¹⁹F-NMR: Bruker DRX 500 (470 MHz); CFCl₃ as internal reference. Transition temperature: Perkin Elmer DSC 7 differential scanning calorimetry and Nikon Optiphot polarizing microscopy with a Mettler Toledo FP82HT hot stage. X-ray diffraction (XRD): Bruker D8 Discover diffractometer with a CuK α source (Cu-K α , λ = 1.54 Å). Quantum chemical calculation was carried out by MOPAC AM-1 method [3]. Dielectric anisotropy ($\Delta \varepsilon$) at 25°C: Hewlett Packard 4284A LCR meter. Optical anisotropy ($\Delta \varepsilon$) at 25°C: Atago 4 T and 2 T Abbe refractometers. Rotational viscosity (γ 1) at 25°C: TOYO Corporation TCM-1. Response time (RT) at 25°C: Otsuka Electronics LCD-5100WT. Voltage holding ratio and specific resistivity were measured according to the literature [4].

Mesomorphism

The phase transition temperatures of the synthesized compounds 1a-1c obtained by the DSC measurements with 3°C/min of the heat rate are summarized in Table 1 with those of the compound 2 as references. Surprisingly, inserting one benzene ring into the

 TABLE 1 Phase Sequences and Transition Temperatures

 Compound
 Transition temperature [°Cl

Compound				
1a	Cr 86.8 N 128.7 Iso			
1b	Cr 78.1 (SmA 59.3) N 118.4 Iso			
$\mathbf{1c}^{a}$	Cr 64.1 (SmA 65.1) N 122.9 Iso			
2	Cr 49.1 Iso			

 $^a{\rm Found}$ to have at least two crystal structures. The melting point in the second heating was $10^{\circ}{\rm C}$ lower than that in the first heating.

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molecular structure of the compound 2 induces the significant increase of the liquid crystalline potential. The compounds 1a-1c exhibit the wide nematic temperature ranges with the high nematic-isotorpic liquid transition temperatures of greater than 118.4°C, most probably due to their larger molecular length and width ratio (L/D ratio). The L/D ratios of the compounds 1a-1c and 2 have been estimated with the semi-empirical molecular orbital calculation applying MOPAC AM-1 method and are listed in Table 2. All the four compounds 1a-1c and 2 possess their widths of the molecular rods in the range of 8.67–9.76Å, while the molecular lengths are widely distributed as 25.9–28.2Å for the compounds 1a-1c and 21.6Å for the compound 2, resulting in the significant difference in the L/D ratios of the fourand the three-ring chain compounds.

As shown in Table 1, the compounds **1b** and **1c** possessing the longer alkyl chains i.e., butyl and pentyl have the higher ordered mesophase smectic A incorporating nematic phase. XRD study of the compound **1c** has been performed and the results are displayed in Figure 2A. The X-ray diffractogram of the compound **1c** at 62° C exhibiting SmA shows the sharp reflection in the small angle region that corresponds to the layer space of d (spacing)-value 26.6 Å. There is a reasonable fit of the layer space value (26.6 Å) obtained with the XRD measurement and 28.2 Å that has been estimated by the MOPAC calculation as the molecular length of the compound **1c**. The weak and broad hollow peak, which is typically observed in XRD of nematic phase [5], was found in the X-ray diffractogram of compound **1c** measured at 70°C.

The compound **1c** was found to have at least two different crystal structures. The melting point during the 2nd heating process was lower than that in the 1st heating process for 10° C. As shown in Figure 2B, two diffraction patterns of the virgin crystal and the crystal obtained through the crystallization after the melt are quite different in the small angle and the 15–20 degree regions. More detailed discussions will be reported separately in elsewhere.

	Length (L) [Å]	Width (D) [Å]	L/D
1a	25.9	8.67	2.98
1b	27.2	8.80	3.09
1c 2	28.2 21.6	9.76 9.70	2.89 2.23

TABLE 2 Results of Molecular Orbital Calculations



FIGURE 2 X-ray diffractograms of compound 1c obtained in A. (a) SmA $(62^{\circ}C)$ and (b) nematic phase $(70^{\circ}C)$; B. (a) before melting, and (b) crystallized after melting.

Physical Properties

Physical properties of the compounds 1a-1c, namely T_{NI} , $\Delta\varepsilon$, Δn , and $\gamma 1$, that have been estimated as extrapolated values from mixtures of the compounds 1a-1c (15%) and 85% of a polar base nematic mixture (T_{NI} : 72.4°C, $\Delta\varepsilon$: 11.0, Δn : 0.137, $\gamma 1$: 166.0 mPa · S) comprising of liquid crystalline benzonitrile derivatives, are summarized in Table 3 with those of the compound 2 as references. As clearly displayed in Table 3, the compounds 1a-1c exhibit the significantly high T_{NI} that are approximately 90°C-100°C higher in comparison to that of the compound 2. As well as the T_{NI} , the extrapolated $\Delta\varepsilon$ and Δn of the compounds 1a-1c are significantly larger than those of the reference, due to the extended π -electron conjugation incorporating the additional fluorine substituents on the benzene rings. The highly conjugated molecular structures of the compounds 1a-1c induce the 20-25% greater $\Delta\varepsilon$ and the Δn of two fold magnitude. The reasonable increase in the $\gamma 1$ has been observed in the compounds 1a-1c.

It has also been found that the compounds 1a-1c are reasonably highly stable against UV irradiation and high temperature. As shown

Compound	$T_{NI} \ [^\circ C]$	Δε	Δn	$\gamma 1 [mPa \cdot S]$
1a 1b	96.4 89.7	34.0	0.210	378.1
10 1c	96.4	32.1 32.1	0.190	411.6
2	-3.6	27.7	0.110	95.6

TABLE 3 Extrapolated Physical Properties

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in Figure 3, the voltage holding ratio (V.H.R.) and the specific resistivity (ρ) of the compounds **1a**-**1c** after 2 hours storage at 120°C and UV irradiation (3,000 mJ/cm²) have been estimated and found to be in the same level as or even better than those of the compound **2** that is already and widely applied for AM-LCDs.

Representative Nematic Mixtures for Application

Quicker response liquid crystal mixtures that are in demand for AM-LCDs, can essentially be achieved by lowering $\gamma 1$ of the mixtures. In the mixture design principle, lowering $\gamma 1$ is the most effective approach for increasing the contents of the lower viscous non-polar compounds in the liquid crystal mixtures. Accordingly, the replacement of the compound 2 by the compounds 1a-1c allows increase of the non-polar compounds contents in the mixtures, which enables $\gamma 1$ of the mixtures reduced without depressing other properties, namely decreasing the T_{NI} or increasing the crystallizing temperature. Two representative mixtures Composition 1 and Composition 2 containing the compounds 1b and 2, respectively, are listed in Table 4. Substituting the polar component in the mixture from compound 2 (Composition 2) to compound **1b** (*Composition 1*), that allows the increase of the non-polar low viscous compounds, resulted in the significant reduction in the response time of 15% with sustaining other properties, namely $T_{\rm NI}$, $\Delta \varepsilon$, and Δn . The nematic phase of both mixtures prepared are stable even at a low temperature $(-20^{\circ}C)$ and can be sustained for a long period (>10 days) without spontaneous crystallization.



FIGURE 3 V.H.R. and specific resistivity of compounds 1a-1c and 2; (a) V.H.R. (30 Hz, 25°C) of compounds 1a-1c, and 2; (b) Specific resistivity (25°C) of compounds 1a-1c, and 2.

Mixture	$T_{NI} \ [^\circ C]$	$\Delta \varepsilon$	Δn	RT [m sec]
COMPOSITION 1 COMPOSITION 2	74.4 74.4	8.9 8.9	$\begin{array}{c} 0.100\\ 0.100\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 8.42\\ 9.92\end{array}$

TABLE 4 Properties of Representative Liquid Crystal Mixtures

CONCLUSIONS

A series of chemically stable novel liquid crystalline four ring chain compounds having a CF₂O moiety have been synthesized. The novel compounds possess much higher $\Delta \varepsilon$ and Δn , and additionally the wider nematic phase temperature ranges in comparison to the three ring chain CF₂O compound. The addition of the novel compounds in the liquid crystal mixtures allows the increase in the content of the lower viscous non-polar compounds. As the result of this approach, the significant response time reduction of the liquid crystal mixtures has been realized.

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