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## **B-PERFLUOROALKYLIMIDOCARBOCYANINES**

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We have found that, in contrast to other nitrogen heterocycles [1], the methylene bases obtained from quaternary salts of benzimidazole [2] react with perfluoroalkyl iodides without irradiation. This forms  $\beta$ -perfluoroalkylimidocarbocyanines containing one CF2 group less than in the initial perfluoroalkyl iodides. A solution of 10 mmole of the appropriate methylene base, 7 mmole of perfluoroalkyl iodide, and 5 mmole of anhydrous triethylamine in 10 ml of anhydrous acetonitrile was stirred at 20°C for 4 h. Then 20 mmole of NaClO4 in 2 ml of water was added to the mixture. The dye was extracted with dichloroethane, and the extract was washed with 200 ml of water and dried with MgSO4. The solvent was evaporated off in vacuum and the dye was crystallized from ethanol. Imidocarbocyanines substitute in the  $\beta$  position have scarcely been studied.

I R=H,  $R_F = CF_3$ ; II R=H,  $R_F = C_2F_5$ ; III R=SO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>,  $R_F = C_2F_5$ 

It is interesting that, in contrast to the thia-, quino-2-, and indocarbocyanines, the introduction of perfluoroalkyl groups into the  $\beta$  position of an imidocarbocyanine scarcely affects the absorption maximum (shifts of 1-3 nm). The extinctions in the spectra of the dyes (I-III) had lower values, which shows the existence of pronounced steric hindrance.

The following details are given for the dyes synthesized: compound, mp, °C,  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ ,  $\epsilon \cdot 10^{-4}$  (ethanol), yield, %: 2-[3-(1,3-diethylbenzimidazolin-2-ylidene)-2-trifluoromethylprop-1-enyl]-1,3-diethylbenzimidazolium perchlorate (I), 167-168 (decomp.), 498, 2.69, 40; 2-[3-(1,3-diethylbenzimidazolin-2-ylidene)-2-perfluoroethylprop-1-enyl]-1,3-diethylbenzimidazolium perchlorate (II), 169-170 (decomp.), 500, 2.33, 33; and 2-[3-(1,3-diethyl-6-trifluoromethyl-sulfonylbenzimidazolium perchlorate (III), 227-228 (decomp.), 526, 4.51, 68. The results of elementary analysis for C, H, and F corresponded to the calculated figures.

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