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- (13) Department of Chemistry.
- (14) Department of Polymer Science and Engineering.

Michael S. Ferritto¹³ and David A. Tirrell*, 14

Department of Chemistry and Department of Polymer Science and Engineering University of Massachusetts Amherst, Massachusetts 01003 Received March 25, 1988

Poly[(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-acetylene]: Formation of a Conjugated Stable Polyradical

There is currently a great interest in preparing organic polymers containing a stable radical. Poly[(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetylene] is theoretically expected. through its oxidation to yield a π -conjugated organic polyradical or a macromolecule having its full spin proportional to its molecular weight. However, poly[(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetylene] and its derivatives have not been synthesized. This paper describes the synthesis of poly[(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)acetylene] (1) and the formation of its polyradical as shown in the idealized Scheme I.

4-Acetyl-2,6-di-tert-butylphenyl acetate (2a) prepared as in the literature⁶ was converted by a Vilsmeier reaction⁷ to β-chloro-3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-acetoxycinnamaldehyde (2b).⁸ The aldehyde was hydrolyzed to yield (3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-acetoxyphenyl)acetylene (2c).⁹ 2c was deacetylated with LiAlH₄ in THF to give (3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)acetylene (2d).¹⁰

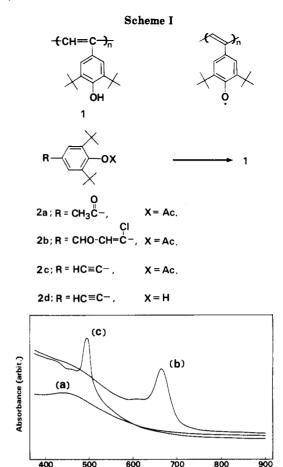


Figure 1. UV-vis spectra of 1: (a) 1 in benzene; (b) 1 in the methanol containing excess KOH; (c) 1 after the oxidation with fresh PbO₂ in benzene.

Wavelength (nm)

2d was polymerized with WCl₆ in CCl₄, according to the polymerization procedure for substituted acetylenes. ¹¹ 1 was obtained as a dark red powder and was soluble in CHCl₃, benzene, tetrahydrofuran, alcohol, and acetone. The structure represented in 1 was confirmed by elemental analysis and IR. ¹² The molecular weight of 1 was $1-3 \times 10^4$ (GPC, polystyrene standard) with $\bar{M}_{\rm n}/\bar{M}_{\rm w} = 1.6-2.0$.

UV-vis spectrum of 1 (Figure 1) showed a broad absorption with a maximum at 450 nm that extended to 600 nm, which indicates a fairly long π -conjugated system in the main chain. Treatment of the polymer solution with excess alkali yields the dark green phenolate anion of 1 $(\lambda_{max} = 655 \text{ nm})$. Careful oxidation of 1 with fresh PbO₂ under an oxygen-free atmosphere gives a deep brownish solution. A strong absorption band appeared at 495 nm, corresponds to the 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-phenylphenoxy radical ($\lambda_{\rm max}$ = 496 nm¹³), and occurs at wavelengths longer than that of 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-alkylphenoxy radicals ($\lambda_{\rm max}$ = ca. 400 nm¹⁴). This indicates that the phenoxy substituent is conjugated with the polyacetylene main chain to some extent. The absorption intensity of the oxidized 1 solution suggested formation of the phenoxy radical of 1 in high concentration and staved constant upon standing at room temperature over a day. This radical formation of 1 is in contrast to the radical formation of the corresponding low molecular phenols, e.g. 3,5-di-tert-butyl-4hydroxycinnamate; the latter had been reported to give bisquinone methides irreversibly.¹⁵ The sterically crowded structure of 1 probably suppresses bond formation between unpaired electrons.

ESR spectra of the oxidized 1 solutions show strong broad absorptions with hyperfine splitting, which give a

high spin concentration of $5.4-7.1 \times 10^{22}$ spins per molar (hydroxyphenyl)acetylene residue $(2.3-3.0 \times 10^{20} \text{ spins/g})$. Surprisingly, these oxidized polymers are found to be paramagnetic even in the solid state $(3.8-6.2 \times 10^{22})$ spins/mol), indicating that the formed radical species are very stable, probably due to a resonance stabilization of unpaired electrons through the conjugated main chain and to a steric effect of the polymer chain. IR spectra showed the strong peaks at 1660 and 1610 cm⁻¹ attributed to phenoxy radical, and the O-H stretching vibration at 3630 cm⁻¹ had completely disappeared. GPC curves of 1 after oxidation were the same as that of 1: This is consistent with the assumption that the oxidation does not bring about oxidative degradation or cross-linking of the main

Magnetic properties of the polyradical will be reported in a future paper.

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- (8) Yield 51% (based on 2,6-di-tert-butylphenol); pale yellow powder; mp 127-128 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, Me₄Si standard, ppm) δ 10.2 (1 H, d, aldehyde), 7.7 (2 H, s, phenyl), 6.6 (1 H, d, methine), 2.3 (3 H, s, acetoxy), 1.4 (18 H, s, t-Bu); IR (KBr pellet, cm⁻¹) 1760 ($\nu_{C=0}$ acetoxy), 1670 ($\nu_{C=0}$ aldehyde), 1600 ($\nu_{C=0}$). Anal. Found: C, 67.5; H, 7.4; Cl, 10.6. Calcd ($C_{19}H_{25}O_{3}$ Cl): C, 67.7; H, 7.5; Cl, 10.5.
- Yield 70%; white crystal; mp 59 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, Me₄Si standard, ppm) δ 7.4 (2 H, s, phenyl), 3.0 (1 H, s, \equiv CH), 2.3 (3 H, s, acetoxy), 1.3 (18 H, s, t-Bu); IR (KBr pellet, cm⁻¹) 3300 $(\nu_{\blacksquare CH})$, 2100 $(\nu_{C}_{\blacksquare C})$, 1760 $(\nu_{C}_{\blacksquare O})$ acetoxy). Anal. Found: C, 79.3; H, 8.7. Calcd $(C_{18}H_{24}O_2)$: C, 79.4; H, 8.9. Yield 92%; white crystal; mp 107 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, Me₄Si
- standard, ppm) δ 7.2 (2 H, s, phenyl), 5.2 (1 H, s, hydroxy), 2.7 (1 H, s, CH), 1.40 (18 H, s, t-Bu); IR (KBr pellet, cm⁻¹) 3620 (ν_{O-H}), 3270 (ν_{EC-H}), 2100 (ν_{C-C}). Anal. Found: C, 83.3; H, 9.6. Calcd ($C_{18}H_{22}O$): C, 83.5; H, 9.6. Preparation of **2d** has been reported previously (Hauff, S.; Krauss, P.; Rieker, A. Chem. Ber. 1972, 105, 1446) by condensation of 2,6-di-tertbutyl-p-benzoquinone and lithium acetylide and by the following reduction of the quinol, but the reported yield was less than 1%
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Hiroyuki Nishide, Naoki Yoshioka, Katsunari Inagaki, and Eishun Tsuchida*

Department of Polymer Chemistry Waseda University, Tokyo 160, Japan

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Alkoxy-Substituted Poly(diarylsilanes): Thermochromism and Solvatochromism

Soluble, high molecular weight polysilane polymers are attracting attention as an interesting new class of radiation-sensitive materials for which a number of applications have been described.1 The electronic structure of these materials is particularly interesting since the chromophore is the σ -bonded polymer backbone.^{2,3,5d} The absorption spectra depend not only on the nature of the substituents but also on molecular weight4 and the conformation of the backbone.5

Recently, we have reported that poly(bis(p-alkylphenyl)silanes) are the most red shifted of all polysilane derivatives and have tentatively ascribed this observation to the presence of long, all-trans backbone segments even in solution.5c,6 Some further support for this hypothesis based on light-scattering studies has recently been reported.7

For some time, we have been interested in the chemistry and spectroscopy of substituted poly(diarylsilanes), particularly those which incorporate substituents which would be expected to influence the polymer spectral properties and polarizability. We describe here the synthesis and spectroscopic characterization of a variety of alkoxy-substituted poly(diarylsilanes) and report on their unusual thermo- and solvatochromism.

The desired substituted dichlorosilane monomers were prepared by the condensation of the corresponding alkoxyphenyl Grignard or lithium reagents with silicon tetrachloride as previously described for the preparation of the p-alkylphenyl derivatives. The unsymmetrically substituted derivatives were prepared in a stepwise fashion via the corresponding substituted trichlorosilanes. The structures of the monomeric dichlorosilanes were supported by their analytical and spectral data. In this regard, $^{ar{1}3}\mathrm{C}\ \mathrm{NMR}$ was particularly useful for the characterization of the unsymmetrical derivatives, since all of the carbon resonances were separated and easily identifiable.

The polymerization of the highly purified dichlorodiarylsilanes was performed using commercial sodium dispersion as previously described, and the results are shown in Table I. The yields reported for the isolated and purified polymers are low (<10%), which is typical for the preparation of sterically hindered polysilanes, but the procedure is unoptimized.

The polymer structures were consistent with their analytical and spectral data. For the diaryl derivatives, the ¹H NMR signals for the aromatic hydrogens and the aliphatic methylene protons α to oxygen were extremely broad and structureless at room temperature. In a typical polymer such as 2, these absorptions appeared as broad, featureless resonances around 5.0-6.8 and 3.2-4.0 ppm, respectively. The situation improves somewhat at elevated temperatures (60 °C) where these signals narrow to 1.45 and 0.47 ppm and some fine structure appears. In general, the ¹³C spectra were much more diagnostic, particularly at elevated temperatures. For example, the ¹³C spectrum of 2 at 60 °C showed four separated aromatic carbon resonances at 159.1, 138.9, 120.6, and 113.7 ppm, and the methylene carbon adjacent to oxygen appeared at 67.9 ppm. The remaining carbons of the aliphatic chain were also separated and easily identified. The IR spectra of the poly((alkoxyphenyl)silanes) are all quite similar, with a number of characteristic strong bands in the region from 1000 to 1600 cm⁻¹, particularly around 1250 cm⁻¹. In fact, the infrared spectra of films of the model monoaryl polymer 1 and the bis(p-alkoxyphenyl) polymer 2 overlay almost exactly, except in the region from \sim 750 to 850 cm⁻¹