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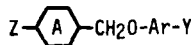
# The Properties of Liquid Crystal Materials Incorporating the —CH<sub>2</sub>O— Inter-ring Linkage<sup>†</sup>

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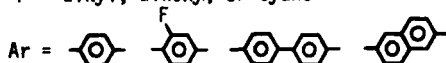
To establish more securely the influence of the —CH<sub>2</sub>O— inter-ring linkage upon the properties of mesogens of both high and low dielectric anisotropy, a range of ethers with the following general structure has been prepared and their properties examined.



where  $\overset{\cdot}{Z}$  = alkyl when A = cyclohexane or BCO

Z = alkyl or alkoxy when A = benzene

Y = alkyl, alkoxy, or cyano



The thermal and electro-optic properties of the compounds are discussed, and comparisons made where possible with analogous materials incorporating the —CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>— linkage.

## INTRODUCTION

Liquid crystal materials with flexible inter-ring linkages are attracting growing attention for applications since first reports<sup>1,2</sup> were made of the use of the —CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>— linkage in compounds of general structure

<sup>†</sup>Presented at the Tenth International Liquid Crystal Conference, York, July 15-21, 1984.

(I), of which some examples with transition temperatures are given below.

| $\text{R}-\text{A}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\text{Ar}-\text{Y} \quad (I)$ |             |          |                                |       |                   |          |
|---|-------------|----------|--------------------------------|-------|-------------------|----------|
| R   | A           | Ar       | Y                              | C-N/I | S <sub>B</sub> -N | N-I (°C) |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>  | cyclohexane | benzene  | OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> | 18    | (8)               | 47       |
| C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>   | cyclohexane | biphenyl | CN                             | 77.2  | -                 | 193.8    |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>  | BCO         | benzene  | CN                             | 76    | -                 | 113      |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>  | cyclohexane | benzene  | CN                             | 30    | -                 | 51       |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>  | benzene     | benzene  | CN                             | 62    | -                 | [-24]*   |

[ ] virtual transition

\* Note that separation of polarisable aromatic centres by -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>- strongly depresses nematic properties

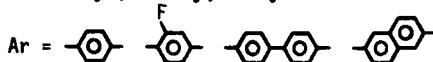
By contrast, less attention has been paid<sup>3,4</sup> to the —CH<sub>2</sub>O— inter-ring linkage, and the results on such systems tend to be somewhat scattered in the literature. To remedy this situation, we have prepared and examined a range of ethers of general structure (II).



where Z = alkyl when A = cyclohexane or BCO

Z = alkyl or alkoxy when A = benzene

Y = alkyl, alkoxy, or cyano



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Ethers of highly positive $\Delta\epsilon$

Table I summarises the thermal data for materials of general structure (II) where the terminal substituent Y is cyano.

Some general comments may be made about the transition temperatures given below in Table I.

(1) For ring A = benzene, the order of decreasing  $T_{N-I}$  with respect to varying Ar is

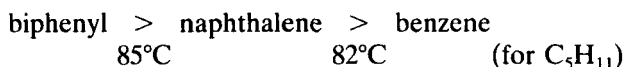





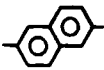

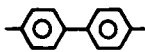



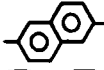

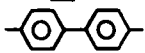


TABLE I

Ethers of highly positive  $\Delta\epsilon$

| $\text{Z} - \text{A} - \text{CH}_2\text{O} - \text{Ar} - \text{CN}$                |  |   |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| A  | Ar   | Z   | C-S <sub>A</sub> /N/I  | S <sub>A</sub> -N/I   | N-I (°C)  |
|   |   | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{C}_5\text{H}_{11} \\ \text{C}_6\text{H}_{13} \\ \text{C}_9\text{H}_{19} \end{array} \right.$ | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} 49 \\ 48 \\ 60 \end{array} \right.$ | -   | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} [-20] \\ [-3] \\ [5] \end{array} \right.$  |
|   |   | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CH}_3 \\ \text{C}_4\text{H}_9 \\ \text{C}_5\text{H}_{11} \end{array} \right.$                | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} 89 \\ 79 \\ 72 \end{array} \right.$ | -   | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} [-44] \\ (57) \\ 73.5 \end{array} \right.$ |
|   |   | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{C}_5\text{H}_{11} \\ \text{C}_6\text{H}_{13} \\ \text{C}_9\text{H}_{19} \end{array} \right.$ | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} 82 \\ 82 \\ 74 \end{array} \right.$ | -   | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} (62) \\ (56) \\ (71) \end{array} \right.$  |
|   |   | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{C}_5\text{H}_{11} \\ \text{C}_6\text{H}_{13} \\ \text{C}_9\text{H}_{19} \end{array} \right.$ | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} 91 \\ 85 \\ 60 \end{array} \right.$ | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} - \\ 129 \\ 142 \end{array} \right.$ | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} 147 \\ 142 \\ - \end{array} \right.$       |
|   |   | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>  | 74.3   | -   | (48.6)*   |
|   |  | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>  | 87.3   | -   | 114.5*  |
|  |  | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>  | 107.0  | 136.3   | 193.2*  |

( ) monotropic and [ ] virtual transitions.

\*see ref 1.

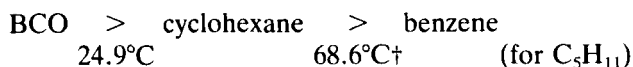
C, crystal; S<sub>A,B...</sub>, smectic A, B...; N, nematic; I, isotropic.

Corresponding inequalities<sup>1</sup> for ring A = cyclohexane are

$$78.7^\circ\text{C} \text{ and } 65.9^\circ\text{C} \text{ (for C}_5\text{H}_{11}\text{)}$$

(2) For ring A = benzene, the T<sub>N-I</sub> values are much lower than those for A = cyclohexane, for each Ar. When A = benzene, two polarisable aromatic centres are electronically isolated by the —CH<sub>2</sub>O— linkage and the low T<sub>N-I</sub> of [−20°C] for Ar = benzene and R = C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub>, reminds us of the T<sub>N-I</sub> of [−24°C] for the analogous system when the isolating linkage is —CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>—.

(3) For Ar = benzene, the highest  $T_{N-I}$  values are for ring A = BCO, and the now familiar order of decreasing  $T_{N-I}$  is



(4) For both A = benzene and cyclohexane, smectic properties occur when Ar = biphenyl—

at R = C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub> for A = cyclohexane

and at R = C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub> for A = benzene

### Ethers of low $\Delta\epsilon$

Ethers of low dielectric anisotropy were of interest to establish the potential of such materials as replacements for esters commonly used for disrupting the anti-parallel correlations of cyano-substituted nematic materials to make them more suitable for multiplex addressed electro-optic displays.

### Di-alkyl substituted ethers

Some examples of materials of general structure (II) carrying terminal alkyl groups, i.e., Z and Y = alkyl groups (R and R'), are recorded in Table II.

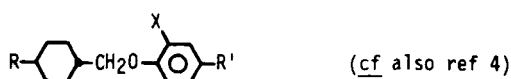
The results in Table II emphasise the strong  $S_B$  character of these di-alkyl substituted ethers. Only two of the ethers studied exhibit nematic phases (3.5 and 5.2) and these are monotropic ( ). The ether 5.1 exhibits no phase, and the transition temperature of 17°C in [ ] indicates that the transition is virtual in nature. The transition temperature was determined by extrapolation of transition temperature data for a range of mixtures of 5.1 in the commercial nematic host E7 (B.D.H. Chemicals Limited, Poole, Dorset).

The nematic properties of these ethers are depressed strongly by a lateral fluoro-substituent, as shown by the last material listed in Table II. The difference in the virtual  $T_{N-I}$  values is 31°C on passing from parent 5.5 to the 2-fluoro-analogue. This clearly restricts the

<sup>†</sup>This large decrease further emphasises comment 2 above—eg, the decrease is only 20°C from 5PCH to 5CB.

TABLE II

Ethers of low Δε



| R                              | R'                             | X | C-S <sub>B</sub> /I | S <sub>B</sub> -I | N-I (°C) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------|----------|
| C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>  | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | H | 24                  | -                 | (4)      |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub>                | H | 47                  | -                 | [17]     |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>  | H | 30                  | -                 | (5.5)    |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>  | H | 32                  | (10)              | [4]      |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>  | H | 23                  | (21)              | [-4]     |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | H | 35                  | (31)              | [21]     |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub> | H | 30                  | 36                | [18]     |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>15</sub> | H | 34                  | 38                | [26]     |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | F | 43                  | -                 | [-10]    |

use of the introduction of a lateral fluoro-substituent to control the smectic properties of such ethers. When the inter-ring linkage is —CO.O—, a fluoro-substituent in this position depresses T<sub>N-I</sub> by a much smaller effect—around 11°C. This may reflect the different flexibility and conjugative interactions for the —CH<sub>2</sub>O— linked materials.

For the 5.3 to 5.7 ethers in Table II, it will be noted that the T<sub>N-I</sub> values are virtual values (again obtained using data for solutions in E7) and lie *below* the T<sub>S<sub>B</sub>-I</sub> values (monotropic or enantiotropic). These T<sub>N-I</sub> values therefore represent the potential of the materials to exhibit nematic properties if their inherent smectic (B) characteristics were sufficiently strongly repressed—as in the case of mixtures in E7.

The various transition temperatures for the materials with R = C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub> listed in Table II are plotted against the number of carbon atoms in the other terminal alkyl group in Figure 1. The strongly monotropic mesogenic characteristics of the series are emphasised by the graphical presentation. The T<sub>S<sub>B</sub>-I</sub> values lie on a rising and levelling curve without any obvious alternation effect. The T<sub>N-I</sub> values lie on two curves whose shape is reminiscent of the T<sub>N-I</sub> curves for series such as the 4-alkyl- and 4-alkoxy-4'-cyanobiphenyls, i.e., falling to early minima and then rising and leveling off. The alternation

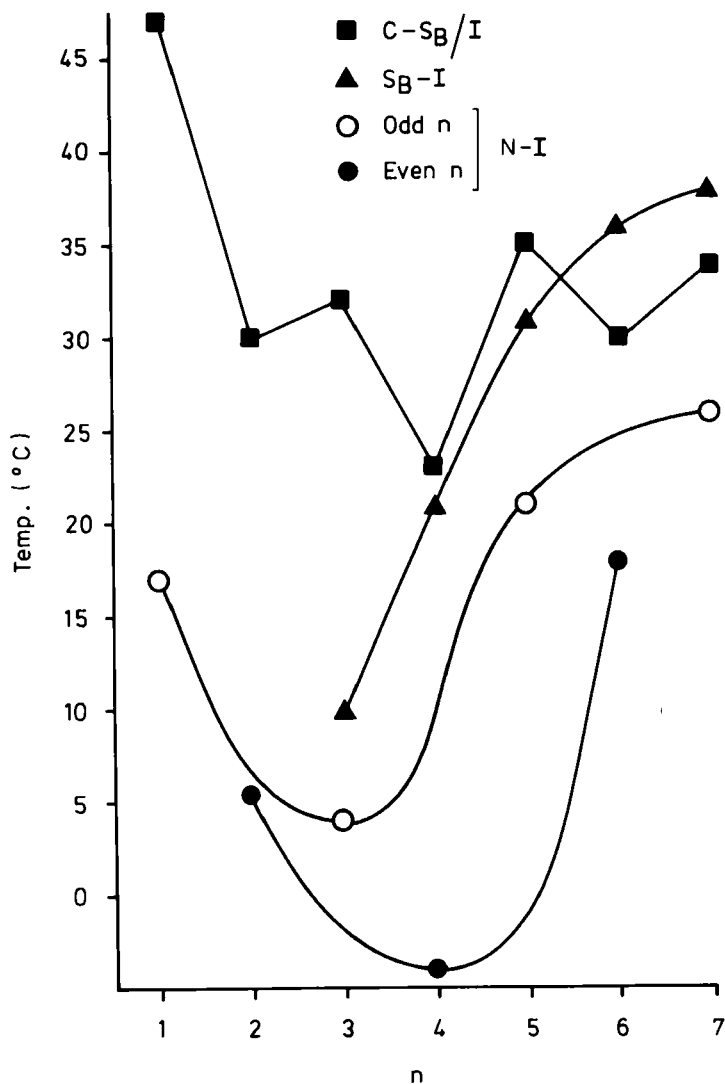
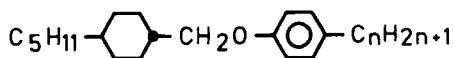


FIGURE 1 Plot of the transition temperatures for the di-alkyl substituted ethers (incorporating a n-pentyl group on the left) against n, the number of carbon atoms in the right hand alkyl group.



effect is obviously marked, with the odd carbon members forming, as normal, the upper curve. Bearing in mind that all but two of the  $T_{N-I}$  values are virtual and therefore subject to some uncertainties because of the extrapolation procedure used in obtaining the values, the trends in these  $T_{N-I}$  curves seem reasonable and suggest that the virtual values are meaningful.

### Alkyl/alkoxy substituted ethers

Attention was then paid to ethers analogous to those discussed in the above section, but in which the right hand alkyl group ( $R'$ ) was replaced by an alkoxy group ( $OR'$ ). The results for some ethers of this class, again materials of low  $\Delta\epsilon$ , are recorded in Table III.

The transition temperatures are of course higher for the alkoxy derivatives. Smectic B properties are again quite marked; the  $S_B-N$  transitions are all monotropic, as are the succeeding  $T_{N-I}$  values. Compound 3.07 gives an enantiotropic  $S_B-I$  transition, and four of the ethers listed in the Table give only monotropic nematic phases, without any detectable  $S_B$  phase before onset of crystallisation. For

TABLE III  
Transition temperatures for:

| $R-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{OR}' \quad (\text{cf also ref 4})$ |                                |             |            |                            |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------------|
| R   | R'                             | C- $S_B$ /I | $S_B$ -N/I | N-I ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) |
| CH <sub>3</sub>   | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>  | 55          | -          | [18]                       |
| C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>   | CH <sub>3</sub>                | 42          | -          | [23]                       |
| C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>   | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>  | 73          | -          | (44)                       |
| C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>   | C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>  | 53          | -          | (34)                       |
| C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>   | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>  | 55          | (25)       | (46)                       |
| C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>   | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | 54          | (30)       | (42)                       |
| C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>   | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub> | 52          | (49)       | [48]                       |
| C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>   | C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>15</sub> | 42          | 60         | [50]                       |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>  | CH <sub>3</sub>                | 46          | -          | (38)                       |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>  | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>  | 55          | (47)       | (53)                       |
| C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>  | CH <sub>3</sub>                | 45          | -          | (36)                       |
| C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>  | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>  | 54          | (50)       | -                          |

Virtual  $T_{N-I}$  values [ ] were determined by extrapolation of data obtained for a range of mixtures in a nematic host (E7).

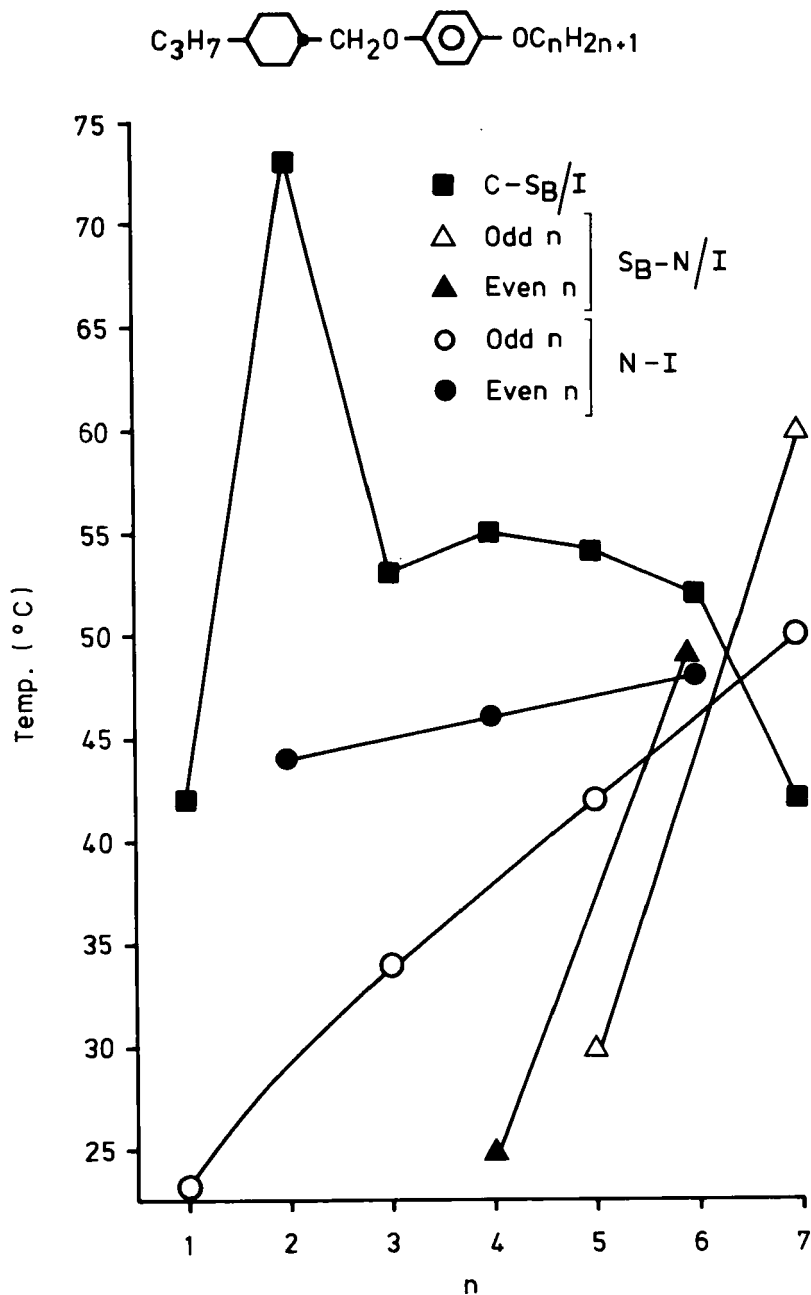


FIGURE 2 Plot of the transition temperatures for the *trans*-4-propylcyclohexylmethyl 4-alkoxyphenyl ethers against  $n$ , the number of carbon atoms in the alkoxy group.

those members exhibiting either no phase or an enantiotropic or a monotropic S<sub>B</sub>-I transition, virtual T<sub>N-I</sub> values were determined, as discussed in the previous section. Comparison of compound 5.04 with compound 5.5 (Table II) shows that the alkoxy compound has an increased thermal stability of its S<sub>B</sub> phase by 16°C, but it now shows a nematic phase above this smectic phase. The dialkyl compound does not, and the change from alkyl to alkoxy has increased T<sub>N-I</sub> by 32°C, favouring nematic more than S<sub>B</sub> behaviour.

Figure 2 expresses graphically the trend in the various transition temperatures for the *trans*-4-propylcyclohexylmethyl 4-alkoxyphenyl ethers with increasing length of the carbon chain in the alkoxy group. The two virtual T<sub>N-I</sub> values relate well to the other monotropic T<sub>N-I</sub> values and this gives us confidence in these values. The T<sub>N-I</sub> values alternate quite markedly and the upper of the two rising T<sub>N-I</sub> lines relates, as expected, to even values of n. The even S<sub>B</sub>-N/I curve also lies above that for odd n values. In several cases,<sup>5</sup> the S<sub>B</sub>-N/I alternation has been found to be opposite in sense to that of T<sub>N-I</sub> values, but exceptions such as this are not unknown.

### Bicyclo(2.2.2)octylmethyl ethers

Several 4-alkylbicyclo(2.2.2)octylmethyl 4-alkyl- or -alkoxy-phenyl ethers, two carrying a fluoro-substituent in the 2-position of the phenyl ring were prepared. The structure of these esters is represented in Table IV which lists the various transition temperatures for these materials.

The following comments are made about the results in Table IV.

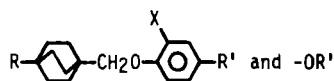
(1) The two laterally fluoro-substituted ethers again have T<sub>N-I</sub> values substantially lower (*ca.* 20°C) than those of their unfluorinated counterparts. The effect is smaller than for the cyclohexane analogues (see comments following Table II), possibly due to the shielding effect of the BCO ring, but is again much greater than the effect in BCO esters for which a similarly positioned fluoro-substituent may even enhance T<sub>N-I</sub> by *ca.* 2°C.

(2) Smectic B properties still occur both in the dialkyl and alkyl/alkoxy systems. No assessment can be made of the effect of the 2-fluoro-substituent on the S<sub>B</sub> properties, as neither of the unfluorinated parent ethers gave a S<sub>B</sub> phase.

(3) All the phases were monotropic, and in three cases virtual T<sub>N-I</sub> values had to be obtained from results obtained with mixtures in E7. All the N-I transition temperatures are higher for the BCO ethers than for the cyclohexyl analogues, an effect which is now well

TABLE IV

Transition temperatures for:



| R                              | R' / OR'                        | X | C-I | S <sub>B</sub> -N/I | N-I (°C) |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----|---------------------|----------|
| C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>  | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>  | H | 51  | -                   | [21]     |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub>                 | H | 69  | -                   | (33.5)   |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>   | H | 58  | -                   | (20)     |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>   | H | 56  | -                   | (30)     |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>   | H | 56  | -                   | (19)     |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>  | H | 47  | -                   | (32)     |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>  | H | 43  | (30)                | [27]     |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>15</sub>  | H | 47  | (35.5)              | (36)     |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> O | H | 74  | (61)                | (68)     |
| C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>  | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>  | F | 41  | -                   | [2]      |
| C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>  | F | 38  | -                   | (11.5)   |

( ) monotropic.

[ ] virtual values obtained by extrapolation.

established for many series of materials. Taking the 5.2 compounds as examples, the monotropic  $T_{N-I}$  values rise by 14.5°C from cyclohexane to BCO ether. For the 3.5 systems, where a monotropic  $T_{N-I}$  value is available for the cyclohexane ether, but not for the BCO ether, the increase is 17°C.

The 5.6 and 5.7 ethers also give  $T_{N-I}$  increases of 9° and 10°C respectively, but interestingly these increases are accompanied by decreases in the transition temperatures for the  $S_B$  phase (6° and 2.5°C respectively). This indicates a lower tendency of the BCO dialkyl ethers to be  $S_B$ .

However, the one alkyl/alkoxy BCO ether prepared, 5.04 in Table IV, has both a higher  $T_{N-I}$  value (by 15°C) and a higher  $T_{S_B-N}$  value (by 14°C)—but notably a higher m.p.—than the 5.04 member of the cyclohexane series (see Table III). For the alkyl/alkoxy systems,  $S_B$  and N thermal stability therefore seem to be similarly affected by the change from a cyclohexane to a BCO ring.

In Figure 3 are plotted the  $S_B-N$  or I and N-I transition temperatures for the 4-pentylbicyclo(2.2.2)octylmethyl 4-alkylphenyl ethers.

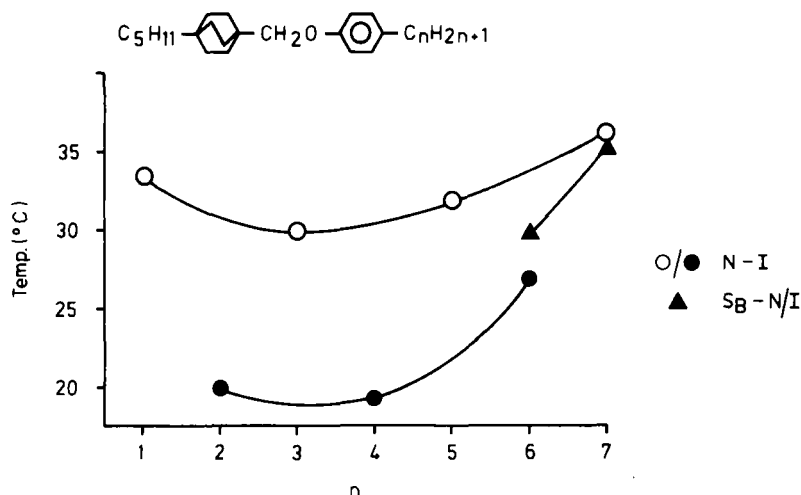










FIGURE 3 Plot of the monotropic and virtual transition temperatures for the 4-pentylbicyclo(2.2.2)octylmethyl 4-alkylphenyl ethers against  $n$ , the number of carbon atoms in the alkyl group.

Since all these transitions are monotropic or virtual, the m.p.s have not been included in the diagram. The  $T_{N-I}$  point for 5.6 lies below the  $T_{S_B-I}$  point because the former represents a virtual transition (the only one in the figure). Attention is drawn only to the quite marked, but otherwise normal alternation effect.

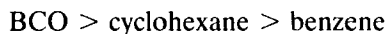
#### Miscellaneous ethers of low $\Delta\epsilon$

Further miscellaneous materials with a —CH<sub>2</sub>O— inter-ring linkage were prepared and of those four examples are listed for comment.

| No | Structure  | C-I (°C) | N-I (°C) |
|----|--|----------|----------|
| 1  | $\text{CH}_3$ —  —CH <sub>2</sub> O—  —OCH <sub>3</sub>                        | 82       | [−6]     |
| 2  | $\text{CH}_3\text{O}$ —  —CH <sub>2</sub> O—  —OC <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | 93       | [38]     |
| 3  | $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$ —  —CH <sub>2</sub> O—  —C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | 99       | (78)     |
| 4  | $\text{C}_5\text{H}_{11}$ —  —OCH <sub>2</sub> —  —CH <sub>3</sub>             | 63       | [−210]   |

From the observed trend in  $T_{N-I}$  on changing from a BCO ring to a cyclohexane ring, and from the generally accepted order of de-

creasing  $T_{N-1}$  established for many systems as



it was clear that terminally dialkyl substituted benzyl phenyl ethers would have very low transition temperatures. Moreover, such materials fall into the same category as the first three examples in Table I. For these compounds, the transition temperatures ( $T_{N-1}$ ) are abnormally low because of the alternation of highly polarisable and weakly polarisable parts of the molecule. That is, in the benzyl ethers, two aromatic rings are isolated from each other by a linkage involving saturated carbon. For these reasons, no examples of such ethers were made, but the first two benzyl phenyl ethers in the above list, one carrying one alkoxy and the other two alkoxy terminal groups emphasise the above points. Despite the terminal alkoxy functions, the  $T_{N-1}$  values are both virtual and low for the structures involved.

The fourth ether in this miscellaneous group involves an inversion of the central linkage with respect to that in compound 5.1 in Table IV. An extraordinary drop in  $T_{N-1}$  is associated with this structural change—243.5°C in fact, as a consequence of the very low virtual  $T_{N-1}$  of [−210°C] for the ether with a linkage inversion. Obviously such a low  $T_{N-1}$  is associated with a long extrapolation in the procedure to determine the virtual value, and there must be uncertainties about the value determined. Even bearing this in mind however, it is clear that a very large fall in  $T_{N-1}$  is associated with the reversal of the inter-ring linkage. This can only be interpreted in terms of the separation in the —OCH<sub>2</sub>— linked molecule of two distinct regions of high polarisability by a region of low polarisability—a situation which is known to have an adverse effect on  $T_{N-1}$  values, see reference 6, i.e., the ether oxygen is now isolated and unable to conjugate with the aromatic ring because of the intervening CH<sub>2</sub> group.

The behaviours of ethers 1, 2, and 4 in the above list are therefore associated with a related structural phenomenon.

The third ether in the above list was made simply to establish the behaviour of a *trans*-4-alkylcyclohexylmethyl 6-alkyl-2-naphthyl ether.











### Comparisons of —CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>— and —CH<sub>2</sub>O— linked materials

The results contained in Table V allow a comparison to be made of the transition temperatures for several pairs of materials differing only in the nature of the inter-ring linkage (—CH<sub>2</sub>O— or —CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>—). When A is benzene or cyclohexane, the different central linkages

give very comparable  $T_{S_B-N/I}$  and  $T_{N-I}$  transition temperatures irrespective of whether  $\Delta\epsilon$  is strongly positive ( $Y = \text{CN}$ ) or low ( $Y = \text{OAlkyl}$  or  $\text{Alkyl}$ ). The transition temperatures for the 4-cyanobiphenyl compounds with  $A = \text{cyclohexane}$  and  $X = \text{—CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{—}$  or  $\text{—CH}_2\text{O—}$  are also very similar.<sup>1</sup>

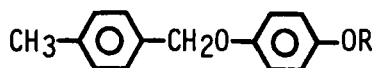
It is noted however that when  $A$  is bicyclo-octane, the dimethylene bridge gives significantly higher stabilities to both the smectic B and nematic phases for both  $Y = \text{CN}$  and  $\text{Alkyl}$ .

TABLE V  
Transition temperatures for:

| $\text{C}_5\text{H}_{11}$ —  —X—  —Y |   |                                | Transition temperatures (°C) |                     |        |
|--|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| A  | Y   |                                | C-N/S <sub>B</sub> /I        | S <sub>B</sub> -N/I | N-I    |
|   | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{CH}_2\text{O} \end{array} \right.$ | CN                             | 62                           |                     | [-24]  |
|  |   | CN                             | 49                           |                     | [-20]  |
|   | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{CH}_2\text{O} \end{array} \right.$ | CN                             | 30                           |                     | 51     |
|  |   | CN                             | 74.3                         |                     | (48.8) |
|    | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{CH}_2\text{O} \end{array} \right.$ | CN                             | 76                           |                     | 113    |
|  |   | CN                             | 72                           |                     | 73     |
|   | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{CH}_2\text{O} \end{array} \right.$ | OCH <sub>3</sub>               | 30                           |                     | 34     |
|  |   | OCH <sub>3</sub>               | 46                           |                     | (38)   |
|   | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{CH}_2\text{O} \end{array} \right.$ | OC <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> | 26                           | 44.5                | 45.5   |
|  |   | OC <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> | 55                           | (47)                | (53)   |
|   | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{CH}_2\text{O} \end{array} \right.$ | C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>  | 3                            | 16                  | [3]    |
|  |   | C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>  | 32                           | (10)                | [4]    |
|   | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{CH}_2\text{O} \end{array} \right.$ | C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>  | 60                           |                     | 62     |
|  |   | C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>  | 56                           |                     | (30)   |
|   | $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{CH}_2\text{O} \end{array} \right.$ | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | 45                           | 58                  | 62     |
|  |   | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> | 47                           |                     | (32)   |

**Electro-optic data**

Assessments of the potential of a number of the ethers of low  $\Delta\epsilon$  for use as additives to hosts of highly positive  $\Delta\epsilon$  in electro-optic displays have been made at RSRE, Malvern. As examples of the results obtained, we quote the following data on three of the ethers.



R = -CH<sub>3</sub>, 12.5 wt % + R = -C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>, 12.5 wt %

$$T_{N-I} = 45^{\circ}\text{C}$$

$$M_{20^{\circ}\text{C}} = 1.71; M_{20^{\circ}\text{C}}^i = 1.30$$

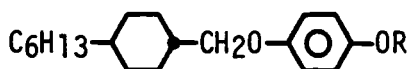
$$\Delta n (20^{\circ}\text{C}, 589 \text{ nm}) = 0.175$$

$$\Delta\epsilon (0.95 \times T_{N-I}) = 9.8$$

$$\text{Rise time } (20^{\circ}\text{C}, 3 \text{ V}) = 53 \text{ ms}$$

$$\text{Decay time } (20^{\circ}\text{C}, 3 \text{ V}) = 65 \text{ ms}$$

$$V_{10} (0^{\circ}) = 1.68 \text{ V at } 20^{\circ}\text{C}$$



R = -CH<sub>3</sub>, 25 wt % + R = -C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>, 20 wt %

$$T_{N-I} = 57^{\circ}\text{C}$$

$$M_{20^{\circ}\text{C}} = 1.70; M_{20^{\circ}\text{C}}^i = 1.31$$

$$\Delta\epsilon (0.95 \times T_{N-I}) = 7.5$$

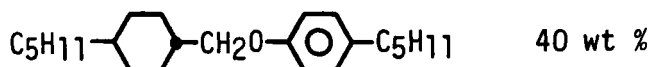
$$\text{Rise time } (20^{\circ}\text{C}, 3 \text{ V}) = 100 \text{ ms}$$

$$\text{Decay time } (20^{\circ}\text{C}, 3 \text{ V}) = 86 \text{ ms}$$

$$V_{10} (0^{\circ}) = 1.90 \text{ V at } 20^{\circ}\text{C}$$

$$\frac{-1}{V} \left( \frac{dV}{dT} \right) \% ^{\circ}\text{C}^{-1} \begin{cases} \text{at } V_{90} (45^{\circ}) & = 0.51 \\ \text{at } V_{50} (10^{\circ}) & = 0.65 \\ \text{at } V_{10} (0^{\circ}) & = 0.68 \end{cases}$$





$$T_{N-I} = 54^{\circ}\text{C}$$

$$M_{200\text{C}} = 1.68; M'_{200\text{C}} = 1.31$$

$$\Delta n (20^{\circ}\text{C}, 589 \text{ nm}) = 0.152$$

$$\text{Rise time } (20^{\circ}\text{C}, 3 \text{ V}) = 83 \text{ ms}$$

$$\text{Decay time } (20^{\circ}\text{C}, 3 \text{ V}) = 59 \text{ ms}$$

$$V_{10} (0^{\circ}) = 1.97 \text{ V at } 20^{\circ}\text{C}$$

$$\frac{-1}{V} \left( \frac{dV}{dT} \right) \% ^{\circ}\text{C}^{-1} \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{at } V_{90} (45^{\circ}) & = 0.83 \\ \text{at } V_{50} (10^{\circ}) & = 0.87 \\ \text{at } V_{10} (0^{\circ}) & = 0.86 \end{array} \right.$$

Summarising the situation in the light of the above electro-optic results, we may make the following points.

(1) The 4-alkoxyphenyl 4-alkylbenzyl ethers provide a novel series of relatively stable mesogens that have some properties—see first example quoted above—that are quite acceptable for display device applications (low smectic tendencies; reasonable figures of merit and viscosities—as judged by the response times—when incorporated in a nematic host). The low transition temperatures of the materials and their low solubilities in nematic hosts (a problem which increases on passing from alkyl/alkoxy to dialkoxy ether) are however serious disadvantages. The low  $T_{N-I}$  values of the terminally cyano-substituted benzyl ethers are also a disadvantage.

(2) The cyclohexylmethyl ethers of low  $\Delta\epsilon$  are stable, and relative to the corresponding benzyl ethers have superior  $T_{N-I}$  values. These ethers—see above—have comparable figures of merit to the benzyl ethers when incorporated in suitable mixtures, but the switch-on voltages and temperature dependencies of  $V_{th}$  are high for such mixtures, and the strong smectic characteristics of the materials are a further disadvantage.

(3) Although the bicyclo-octyl ethers of low  $\Delta\epsilon$  have the best  $T_{N-I}$  values, again the smectic tendencies are high, and the viscosity coefficients are poor. Addition of just 10 wt % of a dialkyl substituted BCO ether to a host consisting of esters gave very considerable increases in viscosity. The fairly high m.p.s, low solubilities and high

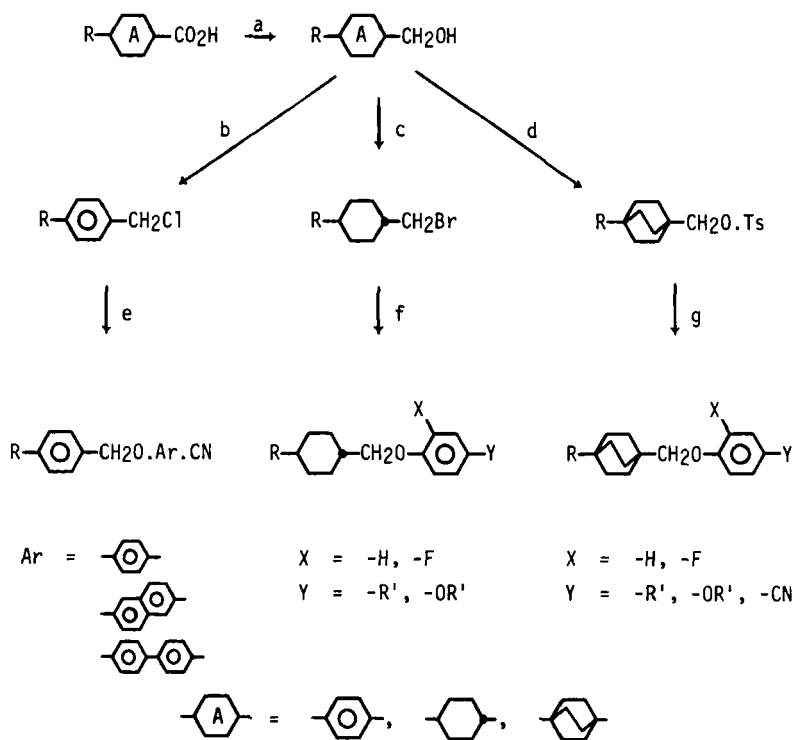
viscosities of the cyano substituted BCO ethers are likewise disadvantageous.

## EXPERIMENTAL

### Materials



The various ethers were prepared by fairly standard procedures, and full details are available in the thesis of N. Carr.<sup>7</sup> The synthetic routes employed are however recorded in the reaction scheme below.

### SYNTHETIC ROUTES FOR ETHERS



(a) ...  $\text{SOCl}_2$ ;  $\text{LiAlH}_4$ /ether

(b) ...  $\text{SOCl}_2/\text{CHCl}_3$

- (c) ... aq HBr/H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>  
 (d) ... Tosyl chloride/pyridine  
 (e) ... HO.Ar.CN/Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>/EtOH  
 (f) ... HO--Y/KOH/C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>OH  
 (g) ... HO--Y/K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>/DMF

All final products were shown to be pure by t.l.c., g.l.c. and/or h.p.l.c. Confirmation of the structures of the products (and, where necessary, for any synthetic intermediates) was obtained by <sup>1</sup>H n.m.r. spectroscopy (Jeol J.N.M.-P.M. × 60 spectrometer), infra-red spectroscopy (Perkin-Elmer 457 grating spectrophotometer) and mass spectrometry (A.E.I.M.S. 902).

Transition temperatures were measured using a Mettler FP5 hot stage and control unit, in conjunction with a Nikon LKe polarising microscope. Products were also checked when necessary by differential scanning calorimetry (Perkin-Elmer DSC 2C with Data Station).

## Acknowledgments

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