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Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals Incorporating Nonlinear Optics

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ERRATUM Paramagnetic Nematic Liquid Crystals Volume 151, pp. 93–107 (1987)

S. CHANDRASEKHAR, B. K. SADASHIVA and B. S. SRIKANTA

Raman Research Institute, Bangalore 560080, India (Received April 11, 1988)

Although not explicitly stated in our paper, our primary aim in preparing these copper complexes was to try and find a biaxial nematic phase in a simple thermotropic system. We have recently made conoscopic observations which reveal the occurrence of a biaxial nematic phase; the evidence will be presented elsewhere. We realize now that because the optical textures of the uniaxial and biaxial nematic phases are virtually indistinguishable, we failed to detect a biaxial/uniaxial phase boundary in our earlier miscibility studies.

In the light of this result, the conclusions drawn in our paper certainly have to be modified. The interpretation of the magnetic susceptibility data may also perhaps be somewhat premature because of the limited temperature range over which the measurements were made. Very recently, Eastman et al.² have concluded from their ESR study of bis(1,3-di(p-n-octyloxyphenyl)propane-1,3-dionato)copper (II) that single crystals at room temperature have the properties of a spin ½ one-dimensional Heisenberg antiferromagnet, and that in the discotic phase exchange interactions are still significant and a degree of long range order is maintained. If this result is confirmed, it is possible that a certain measure of antiferromagnetic short range order is present in the nematic phase as well. We propose to undertake further experiments to verify this point conclusively.

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