



Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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Preface

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Guest Editors' Preface

The 2007 edition of the International Symposium on Metallomesogens (ISM2007) has been the 10th of the series. This event is organized biannually, therefore this last meeting celebrates the 18th birthday of the metal containing liquid crystals, named metallomesogens by Anne Marie Giroud-Godquin and Peter Maitlis, authors in 1991 of the first review on this subject.

The ISM series began in Scheffield in 1989, so that now, about twenty years later it is worthwhile to thank about the past and single out elements for future perspectives.

The pioniering work in this field was mainly devoted to discover which metal coordination geometries or molecular shapes were conform to the liquid crystalline state. Researchers speculated that, with reference to similar anisotropic species totally organic in nature, the properties carried by the metal (reactivity, magnetism, color or generally speaking, the whole set of properties related to a peculiar metal electronic configuration) were useful additional features.

Successively it seemed that the only significant role played by the metal (several examples of metallomesogens containing transition metals or lanthanides were in the meantime reported in the literature) was to clamp organic ligands in a way useful for the generation of the suitable molecular geometries for the liquid crystalline state.

In the progressive growth of this research field, the time wherein the main efforts were dedicated to the synthesis of new compounds seems now replaced by a more intriguing and problematic approach which pay much more attention to structural and applications related aspects.

Amongst the scientific topic which are appearing, together with the description of new families of thermotropic metal complexes, we would like to mention the performances of metallomesogens as luminescent materials, charge carriers, multifunctional biomaterials or as biaxial dopant for calamitic mesophases. The following papers, subjected to the refereeing procedure according to the standard of this Journal, report some examples of the present trend.

This meeting, which gathered scientist with different background, provided a forum for the presentation of the latest work in this field and was particularly appreciated by the younger participants.

The conference success was also made possible by financial supports from the Chemistry Department and the Centre of Excellence on Advanced Functional Materials (CEMIF.CAL) of the University of Calabria, the Italian Interuniversity Consortium on Materials Science and Technology (INSTM) and the Italian Liquid Crystal Society (SICL). All these Institutions are kindly acknowledged.

Finally, we would like to thank the Organizing Committee and, in particular, Prof. Daniela Pucci for the tireless work spent to solve every problem, leaving all the attendants with and a good memory of ISM2007.

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