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(54) Title: 3,4-ALKYLENEDIOXY-THIOPHENE COPOLYMERS

(57) Abstract: An aqueous dispersion of a copolymer of at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L and a polyanion; a preparation process therefor; its use for coating; a printing ink containing the aqueous dispersion; an electro-conductive layer containing a copolymer of at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L and a polyanion derived from an aqueous dispersion thereof; and an antistatic layer containing a copolymer of at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxy-thiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L and a polyanion derived from an aqueous dispersion thereof.

3,4-ALKYLENEDIOXY-THIOPHENE COPOLYMERS

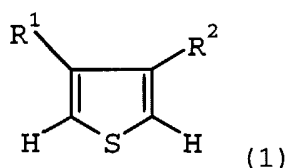
Field of the invention

5 The present invention relates to aqueous dispersions of copolymers of 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compounds and polyanions.

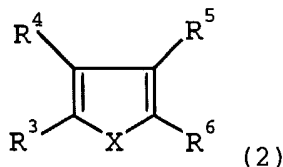
Background of the invention.

10 Numerous polythiophenes have been studied extensively due to their interesting electrical and/or optical properties. Polythiophenes become electrically conducting upon chemical or electrochemical oxidation or reduction.

EP-A 257 573 discloses an intrinsically electrically
15 conductive polymer, wherein through connection in the 2-position and/or the 5-position are coupled to one another, statistically averaged from 60 to 100% by weight structural units, which are derived from at least one monomer of the formula (1):

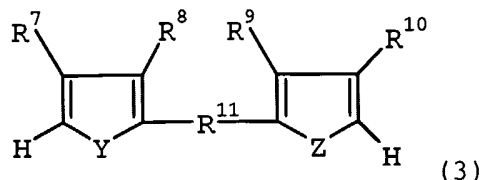


in which R^1 is a C₁-C₂-alkoxy group or $-O(CH_2CH_2O)_nCH_3$ with $n=1$ to 4 and R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a C₁₋₁₂-alkyl group, a C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy group or $-O(CH_2CH_2O)_nCH_3$ with $n = 1$ to 4, or R^1 and R^2 together are
25 $-O(CH_2)_m-CH_2-$ or $-O(CH_2)_m-O-$ with $m = 1$ to 12, 0 to 40% by weight structural units, which are derived from at least one monomer of the formula (2):

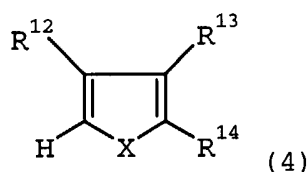


30 wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently of one another a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C₁₋₁₂-alkyl group or aryl or together with C-atoms connected to them form an aromatic ring, R^3 and R^6 independently of one another represent a hydrogen atom or R^3 together with R^4 and the C-atoms connected to them or R^5 together with R^6 and the C-
35 atoms connected to them each form an aromatic ring, X represents an

oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a =NH group, a =N-alkyl group or a =N-aryl group, 0 to 40% by weight structural units, which are derived from at least one monomer of formula (3):

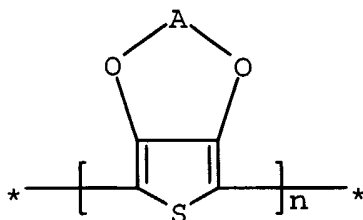


5 where R^7 , R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} independently of one another represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-12} -alkyl group, a C_{1-12} -alkoxy group or an aryl group, Y and Z independently of one another represent an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a =NH group, a =N-alkyl group or a =N-aryl
 10 group, R^{11} represents an arylene group, a heteroarylene group or a conjugated system of the formula $(CH=CH)_o$, wherein o is 1, 2 or 3, 0 to 40% by weight structural units, which are derived from at least one monomer of formula (4):



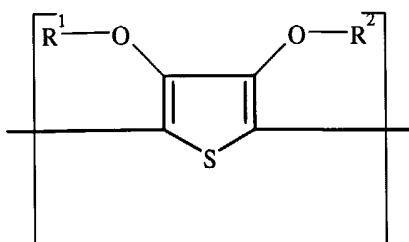
15 wherein R^{12} and R^{13} independently of one another represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-12} -alkyl group, a C_{1-12} -alkoxy group, a C_{1-4} -alkylamino group or a C_{1-4} -acylamino group, R^{14} represents a halogen atom, a C_{1-12} -alkyl group, a C_{1-12} -alkoxy
 20 group, a C_{1-4} -alkylamino group or a C_{1-4} -acylamino group and X has the meaning given above, wherein the polymer in the oxidized form is completely soluble in dipolar aprotic solvents at 25°C and solutions with a content of at least 0.1g of the polymer in 100 mL solvent at 25°C are obtained.

25 EP-A 339 340 discloses a polythiophene containing structural units of the formula:



in which A denotes an optionally substituted C_{1-4} -alkylene group and its preparation by oxidative polymerization of the corresponding
 30 thiophene.

EP-A 440 957 discloses dispersions of polythiophenes, constructed from structural units of formula (I):



in which R¹ and R² independently of one another represent hydrogen
5 or a C₁₋₄-alkyl group or together form an optionally substituted
C₁₋₄-alkylene residue, in the presence of polyanions.

S.C. Ng et al. in 1997 in Journal of Materials Science
Letters, volume 16, pages 809-811 disclosed the synthesis of a
mixture of 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-yl)methanol
10 and 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxepin-3-ol and the chemical
copolymerization of this mixture.

O. Stephan et al. in 1998 in Journal of Electroanalytical
Chemistry, volume 443, pages 217-226 disclosed the synthesis of
(2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-ylmethoxy)-butane-1-
15 sulfonic acid sodium salt and the electrochemical copolymerization
thereof with 3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene.

P. Buvat et al. in 1998 in J. Chim. Phys., volume 95, pages
1180-1193 disclosed the preparation of copolymers of 3,4-
ethylenedioxythiophene and 3-octylthiophene.

20 A. Lima et al. in 1998 in Synthetic Metals, volume 93, pages
33-41 disclosed the synthesis and electropolymerization of 3,4-
dihydro-2*H*-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-yl)methanol.

S. Akoudad et al. in 2000 in Electrochemistry Communications,
volume 2, pages 72-76 disclosed the synthesis of 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-
25 thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-yl)methanol and 2-(2-[2-(2-methoxy-
ethoxy)-ethoxymethyl]-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxine and the
electrochemical homopolymerization thereof.

For a recent overview of the chemistry and properties of
poly(3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene) derivatives, see Groenendaal et al.
30 in 2000 in Advanced Materials, volume 12, pages 481-494.

A general drawback of conductive polymers which have been
prepared and studied up to now, is that their conductivities are
still too low for certain applications, their visible light
transmittances are insufficiently high and/or they are not
35 processable.

Objects of the invention.

It is therefore an aspect of the present invention to provide 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene polymers which exhibit high electrical
5 conductivities, high visible light transmittances and/or good processability.

Further aspects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the description hereinafter.

10 Summary of the invention

It has been surprisingly found that layers containing copolymers of a 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with a 3,4-
15 alkylenedioxythiophene with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L copolymerized in the presence of a polyanion exhibit surface resistances comparable to or better than those realized with the corresponding homopolymers.

Aspects of the present invention are realized with an aqueous
20 dispersion of a copolymer of at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L and a polyanion.

Aspects of the present invention are also provided by a
25 chemical polymerization process for preparing the above-described aqueous dispersion comprising the steps of: (i) providing a solution of a polyanion; (ii) adding a 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L and a 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in
30 water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L to the solution provided in step (i); and (iii) adding an oxidizing or reducing system to the mixture provided in step (ii).

Aspects of the present invention are also provided by the use of the above-mentioned aqueous dispersion for coating an object,
35 such as a glass plate, a plastic foil, paper etc.

Aspects of the present invention are also provided by a printable paste containing the above-described aqueous dispersion.

Aspects of the present invention are also provided by an electroconductive layer containing a copolymer of at least one 3,4-
40 alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene

compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L and a polyanion derived from an aqueous dispersion thereof.

Aspects of the present invention are also provided by an antistatic layer containing a copolymer of at least one 3,4-
5 alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L and a polyanion derived from an aqueous dispersion thereof.

Further aspects of the present invention are disclosed in the
10 dependent claims.

Detailed description of the invention.

Definitions

15

The term C₁₋₅-alkylene group or bridge represents methylene, 1,2-ethylene, 1,3-propylene, 1,4-butylene and 1,5-pentylene groups or bridges.

The term alkyl means all variants possible for each number of
20 carbon atoms in the alkyl group i.e. for three carbon atoms: n-propyl and isopropyl; for four carbon atoms: n-butyl, isobutyl and t-butyl; for five carbon atoms: n-pentyl, 1,1-dimethyl-propyl, 2,2-dimethylpropyl and 2-methyl-butyl etc.

The term aqueous for the purposes of the present invention
25 means containing at least 60% by volume of water, preferably at least 80% by volume of water, and optionally containing water-miscible organic solvents such as alcohols e.g. methanol, ethanol, 2-propanol, butanol, iso-amyl alcohol, octanol, cetyl alcohol etc.; glycols e.g. ethylene glycol; glycerine; N-methyl pyrrolidone;
30 methoxypropanol; and ketones e.g. 2-propanone and 2-butanone etc.

The term conductive layer as used in disclosing the present invention includes both electroconductive coatings and antistatic layers.

The term electroconductive means having a surface resistance
35 below $10^6 \Omega/\text{square}$.

The term antistatic means having a surface resistance in the range from 10^6 to $10^{11} \Omega/\text{square}$ meaning it cannot be used as an electrode.

The term "conductivity enhancement" refers to a process in
40 which the conductivity is enhanced e.g. by contact with high boiling point liquids such as di- or polyhydroxy- and/or carboxy

groups or amide or lactam group containing organic compound optionally followed by heating at elevated temperature, preferably between 100 and 250°C, during preferably 1 to 90 seconds, results in conductivity increase. Alternatively in the case of aprotic
5 compounds with a dielectric constant ≥ 15 , e.g. N-methyl-pyrrolidinone, temperatures below 100°C can be used. Such conductivity enhancement is observed with polythiophenes and can take place during the preparation of the outermost layer or subsequently. Particularly preferred liquids for such treatment
10 are N-methyl-pyrrolidinone and diethylene glycol such as disclosed in EP-A 686 662 and EP-A 1 003 179.

PEDOT as used in the present disclosure represents poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene).

EDOT as used in the present disclosure represents 3,4-
15 ethylenedioxythiophene.

ADOT as used in the present disclosure represents 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene.

PSS as used in the present disclosure represents poly(styrenesulphonic acid) or poly(styrenesulphonate).

20 PET as used in the present disclosure represents poly(ethylene terephthalate).

Aqueous dispersion

25 Aspects of the present invention are realized with an aqueous dispersion of a copolymer of at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L and
30 a polyanion.

According to a first embodiment of the aqueous dispersion, according to the present invention, the 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L has a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.5 g/L.

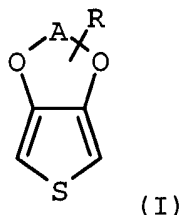
35 According to a second embodiment of the aqueous dispersion, according to the present invention, the 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L has a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.7 g/L.

40 According to a third embodiment of the aqueous dispersion, according to the present invention, the 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L, is

selected from the group consisting of: 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-thieno[3,4-
b][1,4]dioxin-2-yl)methanol, 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-thieno[3,4-
b][1,4]dioxepin-3-ol, (2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-yl-
 methoxy)-acetic acid, 2-(2-[2-(2-methoxy-ethoxy)-ethoxy]-
 5 ethoxymethyl)-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxine and 4-(2,3-
 dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-ylmethoxy)-butane-1-sulfonic
 acid sodium salt.

A 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility
 10 in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L

According to a fourth embodiment of the aqueous dispersion,
 according to the present invention, the 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene
 compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L is
 15 represented by formula (I):



in which: A represents a C₁₋₅-alkylene bridge; R represents an
 optionally substituted C₁₋₂₄-alkyl, C₃₋₁₈-cycloalkyl, C₁₋₁₈-alkoxy or
 polyethylene oxide group (optionally with at least one substituent
 20 selected from the group consisting of an alcohol, amide, ether,
 ester or sulfonate group), an optionally substituted aryl group or
 an optionally substituted acyl group.

According to a fifth embodiment of the aqueous dispersion,
 according to the present invention, the 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene
 25 compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L is
 represented by formula (I) in which: A represents a C₁₋₅-alkylene
 bridge; and R represents an optionally substituted C₆₋₂₀-alkyl
 group.

According to a sixth embodiment of the aqueous dispersion,
 30 according to the present invention, the 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene
 compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L is
 represented by formula (I) in which: A represents a C₁₋₅-alkylene
 bridge; and R represents an optionally substituted C₈₋₁₈-alkyl
 group.

35 According to a seventh embodiment of the aqueous dispersion,
 according to the present invention, the 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene
 compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L is

represented by formula (I) in which: A represents a C₁₋₅-alkylene bridge; and R represents an optionally substituted C₂₋₂₄-alkyl, C₃₋₁₈-cycloalkyl, C₁₋₁₈-alkoxy or an optionally substituted aryl group contains an ether, an ester or an amide substituent, or in which at least one of the substituents is selected from the group consisting of a sulfonate, phosphonate, halogen and hydroxy group.

According to an eighth embodiment of the aqueous dispersion, according to the present invention, the 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L is 3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene (solubility in water at 25°C of 2.1g/L).

Thiophene compounds according to formula(I), according to the present invention, can be prepared by known methods such the transesterification reaction disclosed in DE 3804522 and in HOUBEN-WEYL, volume VI/3, part 3, pages 171-173 (1971) using a thiophene derivative such as 3,4-dimethoxythiophene, or the double Williamson reaction as disclosed in 1994 in Electrochimica Acta in volume 39, pages 1345-1347 using a thiophene derivative such as the dimethyl ester of 3,4-dihydroxythiophene-2,5-dicarboxylic acid.

A 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L

3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compounds with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L include:

3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound			Solubility in water at 25°C [g/L]
Nr	A in formula(I)	R in formula (I)	
M1	Ethylene	-CH ₂ OH	ca. 10
M2	Propylene	-OH in 2-position	ca. 8.2
M3	Ethylene	-CH ₂ OCH ₂ COOH	ca. 2.7
M4	Ethylene	-CH ₂ O(CH ₂ CH ₂ O) ₃ CH ₃	ca. 4.5
M5	Ethylene	-CH ₂ O(CH ₂ CH ₂ O) _n CH ₃	ca. >128
M6	Ethylene	-CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ SO ₃ Na	ca. 167

The solubility of the 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compounds was determined by adding a particular quantity thereof with stirring to sufficient water so that all the monomer was visually adjudged to have dissolved.

Polyanion compound

The polyanion compounds for use in the dispersion according to the present invention are disclosed in EP-A 440 957 and include
5 polymeric carboxylic acids, e.g. polyacrylic acids, polymethacrylic acids, or polymaleic acids and polysulphonic acids, e.g. poly(styrenesulphonic acid). These polycarboxylic acids and polysulphonic acids can also be copolymers of vinylcarboxylic acids and vinylsulphonic acids with other polymerizable monomers, e.g.
10 acrylic acid esters, methacrylic acid esters and styrene.

According to a ninth embodiment of the aqueous dispersion according to the present invention, the polyanion is poly(styrenesulphonate), the anion of poly(styrene sulphonic acid).

15 Chemical polymerization process

Aspects of the present invention are realized by a chemical polymerization process for preparing an aqueous dispersion, according to the present invention, comprising the steps of: (i)
20 providing a solution of a polyanion; (ii) adding a 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L and a 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L to the solution provided in step (i); and (iii) adding an oxidizing or reducing
25 system to the mixture provided in step (ii).

Copolymers of at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L can be
30 copolymerized chemically (oxidatively and reductively). The oxidation agents used for the oxidative polymerisation of pyrrole, such as described for example in Journal of the American Chemical Society, volume 85, pages 454-458 (1963) and J. Polymer Science Part A Polymer Chemistry, volume 26, pages 1287-1294 (1988), can be
35 utilized for the oxidative polymerization of thiophenes.

According to a first embodiment of the chemical polymerization process, according to the present invention, the inexpensive and easily accessible oxidation agents such as iron(III) salts such as FeCl₃, the iron(III) salts of organic acids, e.g. Fe(OTs)₃, H₂O₂,
40 K₂Cr₂O₇, alkali and ammonium persulphates, alkali perborates and potassium permanganate are used in the oxidative polymerization.

Theoretically the oxidative polymerization of thiophenes requires 2.25 equivalents of oxidation agent per mole thiophene of formula (I) [see e.g. J. Polymer Science Part A Polymer Chemistry, volume 26, pages 1287-1294 (1988)]. In practice an excess of 0.1
5 to 2 equivalents of oxidation agent is used per polymerizable unit. The use of persulphates and iron(III) salts has the great technical advantage that they do not act corrosively. Furthermore, in the presence of particular additives oxidative polymerization of the thiophene compounds according to formula (I) proceeds so slowly
10 that the thiophenes and oxidation agent can be brought together as a solution or paste and applied to the substrate to be treated. After application of such solutions or pastes the oxidative polymerization can be accelerated by heating the coated substrate as disclosed in US 6,001,281 and WO 00/14139 herein incorporated by
15 reference.

Reductive polymerization can be carried out using Stille (organotin) routes or Suzuki (organoboron) routes as disclosed in 2001 in Tetrahedron Letters, volume 42, pages 155-157 and in 1998 in Macromolecules, volume 31, pages 2047-2056 respectively or with
20 nickel complexes as disclosed in 1999 in Bull. Chem. Soc. Japan, volume 72, page 621 and in 1998 in Advanced Materials, volume 10, pages 93-116.

Industrial application

25 Chemically polymerized copolymers of at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxy-thiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L
30 exhibit high electrical conductivity together with low absorption of visible light and high absorption to infrared radiation. Such thiophene copolymers can be applied to a wide variety of rigid and flexible substrates, e.g. ceramics, glass and plastics, and are particularly suitable for flexible substrates such as plastic
35 sheeting and the substrates can be substantially bent and deformed without the thiophene copolymer layer losing its electrical conductivity.

Such thiophene copolymers can, for example, be utilized in photovoltaic devices, batteries, capacitors and organic and
40 inorganic electroluminescent devices, in electromagnetic shielding layers, in heat shielding layers, in antistatic coatings for a wide

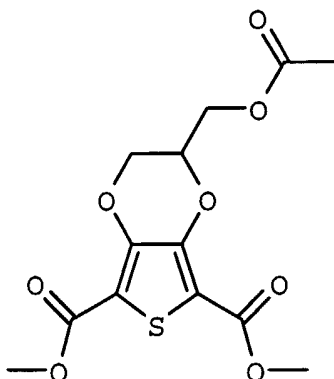
variety of products including photographic film, thermographic recording materials and photothermographic recording materials, in smart windows, in electrochromic devices, in sensors for organic and bio-organic materials, in field effect transistors, in printing
5 plates, in conductive resin adhesives and in free-standing electrically conductive films [see also chapter 10 of the Handbook of Oligo- and Polythiophenes, Edited by D. Fichou, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim (1999)].

10 The invention is illustrated hereinafter by way of comparative and invention examples. The percentages and ratios given in these examples are by weight unless otherwise indicated.

SYNTHESIS OF CO-MONOMERS

15

Synthesis of 2-acetoxymethyl-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxine-5,7-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester

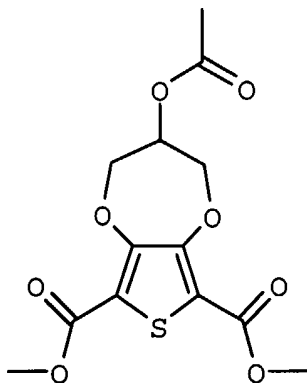


20 A 70/30 molar mixture of 2-acetoxymethyl-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxine-5,7-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester and 3-acetoxy-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxepine-6,8-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester was obtained by performing the reaction between 3,4-dihydroxythiophene-2,5-dicarboxylic acid
25 dimethyl ester and epibromohydrin as described in US 5,111,327. This mixture was subsequently separated by an acetylation/selective crystallization procedure: the 70/30 molar mixture of 2-acetoxymethyl-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxine-5,7-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester and 3-acetoxy-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-
30 thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxepine-6,8-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester (143 g, 0.496 mol) was dissolved in methylene chloride (1.5 L). Triethylamine (80 mL) was subsequently added after which acetyl chloride (43 mL) was added dropwise, constantly

keeping the reaction around 25°C by slight cooling. After addition the mixture was stirred for another hour at 25°C.

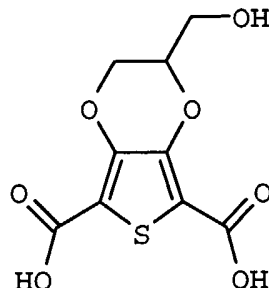
Subsequently, the reaction mixture was washed several times with 1M hydrochloric acid, 1M aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate solution and saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution, respectively. The solvent was removed and the resulting solid was recrystallized from ethanol. After filtration and washing of the residue, pure 2-acetoxymethyl-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxine-5,7-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester was obtained as demonstrated by NMR and mass spectroscopy.

Synthesis of 3-acetoxy-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxepine-6,8-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester



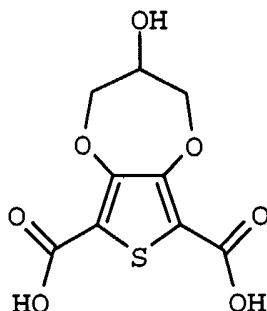
Its seven-membered ring isomer, 3-acetoxy-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxepine-6,8-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester, could be isolated by concentrating the filtrate of the above-mentioned recrystallization process. The remaining residue, being a mixture of 2-acetoxymethyl-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxine-5,7-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester and 3-acetoxy-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxepine-6,8-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester (molar ration ca. 1:2) was subsequently separated into the individual compounds by column chromatography using SiO₂ (eluant: methylene chloride/ethyl acetate = 90/10). This finally resulted in pure 3-acetoxy-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxepine-6,8-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester as well as some additional pure 2-acetoxymethyl-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxine-5,7-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester.

Synthesis of 2-hydroxymethyl-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxine-5,7-dicarboxylic acid



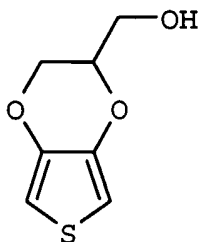
2-Acetoxyethyl-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxine-5,7-
5 dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester (60 g, 0.18 mol) was dissolved
in ethanol (680 mL). potassium hydroxide (36 g) was added to
this solution after which water (500 mL) was added upon
continuous cooling. After addition of the water the reaction
mixture was stirred for another 30 minutes after which the
10 solvents were removed by distillation. To the remaining part of
the reaction mixture, we dropwise added a mixture of ice (50 g)
and concentrated hydrochloric acid (25 mL), and stirred. The
mixture was then filtered and the residue was washed with
water. Subsequent drying resulted in quantitative formation of
15 pure 2-hydroxymethyl-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxine-5,7-
dicarboxylic acid as demonstrated by NMR and mass spectroscopy.

Synthesis of 3-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxepine-6,8-dicarboxylic acid



20 Pure 3-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxepine-6,8-
dicarboxylic acid was prepared analogously to the synthesis of
2-hydroxymethyl-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxine-5,7-
dicarboxylic acid as described above and applying the same
25 molar quantities of reagents.

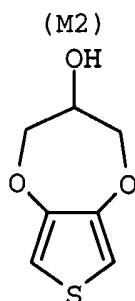
Synthesis of (2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-yl)-
methanol (M1)



2-Hydroxymethyl-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxine-5,7-
5 dicarboxylic acid (48 g, 0.184 mol) was dissolved in N,N-
dimethylacetamide (500 mL), and Cu₂Cr₂O₇ (8.6 g) and quinoline
(15 drops) were added. This mixture was subsequently stirred
for 2 hours at 150°C, after which it was cooled to 25°C. It was
then poured into ethyl acetate, the catalyst was removed by
10 filtration and the filtrate was washed with acidic water and an
aqueous saturated sodium chloride solution. Subsequently, the
solvent was removed after which pure (2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-
b][1,4]dioxin-2-yl)-methanol was isolated by vacuum
distillation (115-120°C; 0.05 mm Hg).

15

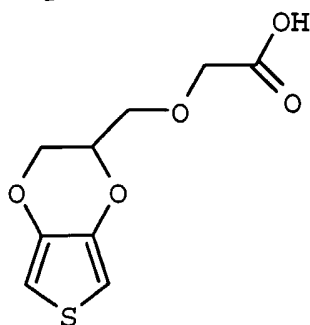
Synthesis of 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxepin-3-ol



Pure 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxepin-3-ol was
20 prepared analogously to the synthesis of (2,3-dihydro-
thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-yl)-methanol as described above and
applying the same molar quantities of reagents. Purification
was accomplished by column chromatography with SiO₂ (eluant:
CH₂Cl₂).

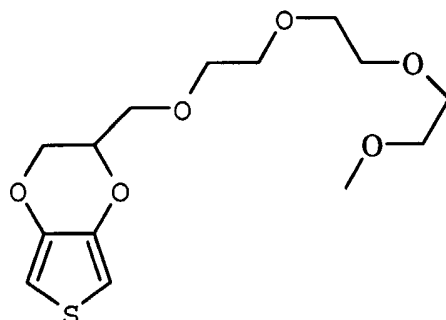
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Synthesis of (2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-yl-methoxy)-acetic acid (M3)



(2,3-Dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-ylmethoxy)-acetic acid
 5 ethyl ester (10.2 g, 40 mmol) was dissolved into ethanol (100 mL) and water (50 mL), blanketed by nitrogen. Potassium hydroxide (2.9 g) was added and the mixture was heated at 35°C for 30 min. The solvents were then removed by distillation, ethyl acetate (50 mL), ice-water (50 mL) and concentrated
 10 hydrochloric acid (5 mL) were added and the mixture was vigorously stirred. Subsequently, the organic phase was separated, washed with an aqueous, saturated sodium chloride solution, dried with anhydrous magnesium sulphate and concentrated. Finally the raw product was recrystallized from
 15 ethyl acetate/hexanes (1/1) resulting in pure (2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-ylmethoxy)-acetic acid as demonstrated by NMR and mass spectroscopy.

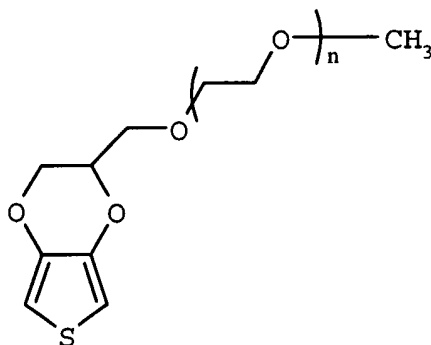
20 Synthesis of 2-(2-[2-(2-methoxy-ethoxy)-ethoxy]-ethoxymethyl)-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxine (M4)



A transesterification reaction between 3,4-dimethoxythiophene (12.9 g, 89 mmol) and (2-[2-(2-methoxy-ethoxy)-ethoxy]-ethoxymethyl)-1,2-ethanediol (24.5 g) in toluene (150 mL) was
 25 performed by heating (at 100°C) a mixture of these compounds under a continuous nitrogen flow for 24 h. Subsequently, the reaction mixture was poured into methylene chloride (200 mL)

and the organic phase was washed with a 1M aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate solution, an aqueous concentrated sodium chloride solution, dried with anhydrous magnesium sulphate and concentrated. This resulted in a viscous oil. Pure 2-{2-[2-(2-methoxy-ethoxy)-ethoxy]-ethoxymethyl}-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-b][1,4]dioxine was finally obtained by vacuum distillation.

Synthesis of polyethylene oxide substituted (2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-b][1,4]dioxin-2-yl)-methanol (M5)



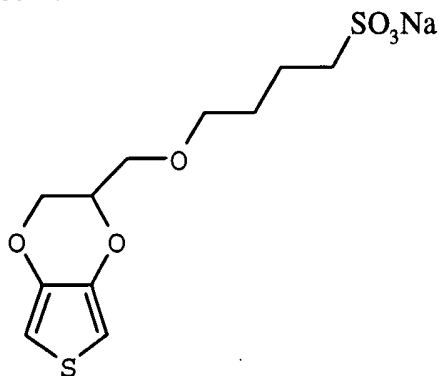
10

p-Toluenesulfonyl chloride (8.4 g, 44 mmol) was dissolved in pyridine (20 mL), blanketed by N₂. A solution of monohydroxy-functionalized polyethylene oxide (Mw = 750 g/mol, 15 g, 20 mmol) in pyridine (30 mL) was added dropwise, constantly
 15 keeping the reaction temperature around 25-30°C. After addition the reaction mixture was stirred for another 2 h and then poured into ice-water/hydrochloric acid. This aqueous phase was extracted with methylene chloride after which the combined organic fractions were washed with a 1M aqueous solution of
 20 sodium hydrogen carbonate. Final purification was done by column chromatography (SiO₂, eluant: methylene chloride and ethanol, respectively) resulting in pure tosylate functionalized polyethylene oxide.

(2,3-Dihydro-thieno[3,4-b][1,4]dioxin-2-yl)-methanol (1.0 g,
 25 5.8 mmol) was dissolved into tetrahydrofuran (25 mL) and blanketed by nitrogen. Sodium hydride (0.25 g) was added and stirring was continued for 30 min. Then a solution of the tosylated polyethylene oxide (5.3 g) in tetrahydrofuran (25 mL) was added dropwise. After addition the reaction mixture was
 30 brought to reflux for 2 h after which it was cooled to 25°C again. The reaction mixture was then poured into ice-water (containing a few drops of concentrated hydrochloric acid) and extraction was performed using methylene chloride. The combined organic fraction were then washed with a 1M aqueous solution of

sodium hydrogen carbonate and an aqueous, saturated sodium chloride solution, dried with anhydrous magnesium sulphate and concentrated. Final purification by column chromatography (SiO₂, eluant: methylene chloride/methanol (95/5)) resulted in
5 pure PEO-substituted EDOT as was demonstrated with NMR and GPC.

Synthesis of 4-(2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-yl-methoxy)-butane-1-sulfonic acid sodium salt (M6)



10 (2,3-Dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-yl)-methanol (6.9 g, 40 mmol) was dissolved into tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) and blanketed by nitrogen. Sodium hydride (1.76 g) was added and stirring was continued for 30 min. Then butanesultone (6.0 g) was added dropwise after which the reaction mixture was brought to reflux
15 for 3 h. Then it was cooled to 25°C again, the solvent was removed, methanol was added, the mixture was stirred, filtered and the filtrate was concentrated. The remaining oil was solidified by addition of hexanes and ethanol, followed by stirring. Final filtration and drying resulted in pure 4-(2,3-
20 dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-ylmethoxy)-butane-1-sulfonic acid sodium salt as was demonstrated by NMR and mass spectroscopy.

PREPARATION OF 3,4-ALKYLENEDIOXYTHIOPHENE-HOMOPOLYMERS

25

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 1

At 25°C, 562.5g of a 5.6% by weight aqueous solution of poly(styrene sulphonic acid) [PSS] (M_w=290,000), 2437.5g of
30 deionized water and 12.78 g (90mmol) EDOT were mixed in a 4L reaction vessel equipped with a stirrer. 0.225g Fe₂(SO₄)₃·9H₂O and 25.7g Na₂S₂O₈ were then added to initiate the polymerization reaction. The reaction mixture was stirred at 25°C for 7h, after

which a further 4.3g of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ was added. After an additional reaction time of 16h the reaction mixture was treated 2 times with ion exchanger (300ml Lewatit™ S100MB + 500ml Lewatit™ M600MB from BAYER). The resulting mixture was additionally thermally treated
5 at 95°C for 2h and the resulting viscous mixture treated with high shear (microfluidizer at 600Bar). This procedure yielded 1800g of a 1.09wt% blue dispersion of P1.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 2

10

At 25°C, 438.23g of a 5.99% by weight aqueous solution of poly(styrenesulphonic acid) [PSS] ($M_w=290,000$) and 2061.77g deionized water were mixed in a 4L reaction vessel equipped with a stirrer and a nitrogen inlet. After bubbling nitrogen through this
15 mixture for 30 minutes, 12.78 g (90mmol) of EDOT were added to this solution. 0.225g $\text{Fe}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and 25.7g $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ were then added to initiate the polymerization reaction. The reaction mixture was stirred at 25°C for 7h, after which a further 4.3g of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ was added. After an additional reaction time of 16h the
20 reaction mixture was treated 2 times with ion exchanger (300ml Lewatit™ S100MB + 500ml Lewatit™ M600MB from BAYER). The resulting mixture was additionally thermally treated at 95°C for 2h and the resulting viscous mixture treated with high shear (microfluidizer at 600Bar). This procedure yielded 1950g of a 1.02wt% blue
25 dispersion of P2.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 3

At 25°C, 438.23g of a 5.99% by weight aqueous solution of
30 poly(styrene sulphonic acid) [PSS] ($M_w=290,000$) were mixed with 2061.77g of deionized water in a 4L reaction vessel equipped with a stirrer and a nitrogen inlet. After bubbling nitrogen purging through this mixture for 30 minutes, 12.78 g (90mmol) of EDOT was added. 0.225g $\text{Fe}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and 25.7g $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ were
35 then added to initiate the polymerization reaction. The reaction mixture was stirred at 25°C for 7h, after which a further 4.3g of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ was added. After an additional reaction time of 16h the reaction mixture was treated 2 times with ion exchanger (300ml Lewatit™ S100MB + 500ml Lewatit™
40 M600MB). The resulting mixture was additionally thermally treated at 95°C for 2h and the resulting viscous mixture was

treated with high shear (microfluidizer at 600Bar). This procedure yielded 1840g of a 1.03wt% blue dispersion of P3.

5 Preparing electroconductive layers with dispersions based on the dispersions of COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 1 to 3

Coating dispersions were produced by adding 3-glycidoxypropyl-trimethoxysilane, ZONYL® FSO100, a copolymer latex of vinylidene chloride, methacrylate and itaconic acid (88/10/2) and N-methyl
 10 pyrrolidinone to the dispersions of COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 1 to 3 so as to produce layers, upon doctor blade-coating onto a subbed 175µm poly(ethylene terephthalate) support and drying at 45°C for 3.5 minutes, with the following composition:

PEDOT	28.9mg/m ²
[PEDOT)/PSS	100 mg/m ²]
ZONYL® FSO100	8 mg/m ²
3-glycidoxypropyl-trimethoxysilane	100mg/m ²
copolymer latex of vinylidene chloride,	100mg/m ²
methacrylate and itaconic acid (88/10/2)	
N-methyl pyrrolidinone	2mL/m ²

15

Characterization of electroconductive layers prepared with dispersions based on dispersions of COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 1 to 3

The optical density of the layers was determined by measuring
 20 a stack of 10 strips with a Macbeth® TD904 densitometer using a visible filter and then obtaining therefrom the optical density of a single strip. The values given in Table 1 include the optical density of the PET-support.

The surface resistance of the layers was measured in a room
 25 conditioned to a temperature of 25°C and 30% relative humidity by contacting the printed layer with parallel copper electrodes each 35 mm long and 35 mm apart capable of forming line contacts, the electrodes being separated by a Teflon® insulator. This enabled a direct measurement of the surface resistance to be realized. The
 30 results are also summarized in Table 1.

The layers were then exposed to artificial sunlight (provided by a xenon lamp) through a glass filter in an Atlas Material Testing Technology BV, SUNTEST™ CPS apparatus according to DIN 54 004. The factor given in Table 1 is the ratio of surface

resistance after x hours Suntest™ exposure to the surface
resistance before the Suntest exposure.

Table 1:

5

Compar- ative Example nr	Condition of reaction medium prior to initiator addition	PEDOT/ PSS		Initial surface Resistance [Ohm/ square]	O.D.	Ratio of surface resistance after 48h Suntest™ exposure to initial surface resistance
			concen- tration [wt%]			
1	no oxygen exclusion	P1	1.09	2900	0.067	83
2	O ₂ purged by N ₂ bubble through	P2	1.02	1200	0.066	13
3	O ₂ purged by N ₂ bubble through	P3	1.03	1200	0.065	12

The results in Table 1 show that the initial surface resistance and the stability of the PEDOT/PSS-layers is strongly dependent upon the conditions under which the polymerization is initiated, driving
10 off oxygen by bubbling through with nitrogen resulting in lower surface resistance and higher stability to 48h Suntest™ exposure as shown by lower ratios of surface resistance after Suntest™ exposure to the initial surface resistance.

15

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 4 to 9

Electrochemical polymerization of EDOT, M1, M2, M3, M4 and M6

Electropolymerization was performed at 25°C using a standard
20 three electrode cell. The working electrode was platinum, gold or indium-tin-oxide. The counter electrodes was platinum; the reference electrode was silver/0.1 M silver perchlorate in acetonitrile (0.34 V vs SCE).

Acetonitrile solutions 10⁻³ to 10⁻² M in the monomer of
25 COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 3 to 8 (EDOT, M1, M2, M3, M4 and M6 respectively) and 0.1 M in NaClO₄ were polymerized after purging of oxygen by bubbling through nitrogen by applying a potential of 0.7-0.8 V in the cell. A current density of 5 mA cm⁻² was used in the electropolymerization.

In-situ electrical conductivity measurements

Electrical conductivity measurements were carried out in the absence of monomer in the same three electrode cell in which the electropolymerization was carried out. The electrode for conductivity measurements was a two-band platinum electrode (0.3 cm x 0.01 cm for each band) with an interband spacing of 20 μm . The platinum electrode was coated with polymer by the passage of 80 mC, which assured the attainment of limiting resistance conditions. Electrical conductivities were measured by applying a small amplitude (typically 10 mV) DC voltage between the bands and recording the current thereby obtained. Poly(3-methylthiophene) (60 S/cm) was used as an electrical conductivity standard. The results are shown in Table 2.

Electropolymerized homopolymers of EDOT, M1 and M3 exhibited comparable resistivities to one another. Electropolymerized homopolymers of M2, M4 and M6 exhibited significantly higher resistivities than electropolymerized PEDOT.

Table 2:

Comparative Example nr	Polymer nr.	monomer nr.	Resistivity [ohm-cm]	Conductivity [S/cm]
4	P4	EDOT	1.67×10^{-3}	599
5	P5	M1	2.0×10^{-3}	500
6	P6	M2	14.3×10^{-3}	70
7	P7	M3	2.5×10^{-3}	400
8	P8	M4	14.3×10^{-3}	70
9	P9	M6	100×10^{-3}	10

25

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 10

Polymerization of 4-(2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-ylmethoxy)-butane-1-sulfonic acid sodium salt

4-(2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxin-2-ylmethoxy)-butane-1-sulfonic acid sodium salt (0.66 g, 2.0 mmol) was dissolved in oxygen-free water (20 mL). The solution was heated to 80°C after which $\text{Fe}(\text{OTs})_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (4.06 g, 6.0 mmol) was added. The

30

colour of the solution immediately turned dark blue. The reaction mixture was kept at 80°C for 3.5 h more, after which it was cooled and filtered. The filtrate was finally freed of iron, sodium and tosylate ions by ion exchange with cationic and anionic resins resulting in a dark blue aqueous PEDOT-S solution. The solution was finally diluted with deionized water to 1% by weight PEDOT-S, P10.

10 PREPARATION OF 3,4-ALKYLENEDIOXYTHIOPHENE-COPOLYMERS IN
REACTION MEDIA PURGED OF OXYGEN

INVENTION EXAMPLES 1 to 12

The dispersions of the 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene copolymers of INVENTION EXAMPLES 1 to 12 were prepared by mixing 87g of a 5.99% by weight aqueous solution of poly(styrenesulphonic acid) [PSS] (Mw=290,000) with 413g deionized water at 25°C in a 1L reaction vessel equipped with a stirrer and a nitrogen inlet. After bubbling nitrogen through this mixture for 30 minutes, EDOT (for quantity see Tables 3A or 3B) and comonomer (for number and quantity see Tables 3A or 3B) were added to this solution. Nitrogen was then again bubbled through the reaction mixture for 30 minutes. 0.0375g $\text{Fe}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ and 4.28g $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ were then added to initiate the copolymerization reaction. The reaction mixture was stirred at 25°C for 7h, after which a further 0.7g of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ was added. After an additional reaction time of 16h the reaction mixture was treated twice with ion exchanger (50ml Lewatit™ S100MB + 80ml Lewatit™ M600MB from BAYER). The resulting mixture was additionally thermally treated at 95°C for 2h and the resulting viscous mixture diluted and treated with high shear (microfluidizer at 600Bar). This procedure yielded a dispersion of the copolymer (for type, quantity produced and concentration of copolymer in the dispersion see Tables 3A and 3B).

Table 3A:

INVENTION EXAMPLE NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
EDOT wt [g]	1.92	1.7	1.92	1.7	1.92	1.7
EDOT[mmoles]	13.5	11.96	13.5	11.96	13.5	11.96
Comonomer	M1	M1	M2	M2	M3	M3
Comonomer wt [g]	0.258	0.516	0.258	0.516	0.345	0.69
Comonomer [mmoles]	1.49	3.00	1.49	3.00	1.49	3.00
Copolymer dispersion	CP1	CP2	CP3	CP4	CP5	CP6
wt of (co)polymer dispersion prepared [g]	570	470	560	495	450	455
(co)polymer concentration in dispersion[wt %]	0.78	0.82	0.82	0.83	0.76	1.14

Table 3B:

5

INVENTION EXAMPLE NUMBER	7	8	9	10	11	12
EDOT wt [g]	1.92	1.7	1.92	1.7	1.92	1.7
EDOT[mmoles]	13.5	11.96	13.5	11.96	13.5	11.96
Comonomer	M4	M4	M5	M5	M6	M6
Comonomer wt [g]	0.477	0.954	1.104	2.208	0.496	0.992
Comonomer [mmoles]	1.49	3.00	1.49	3.00	1.49	3.00
Copolymer dispersion	CP7	CP8	CP9	CP10	CP11	CP12
wt of (co)polymer dispersion prepared [g]	690	680	380	510	570	60
(co)polymer concentration in dispersion[wt %]	0.65	0.70	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.82

Characterization of copolymers of INVENTION EXAMPLES 1 to 12

The molecular weights of the copolymers and the PEDOT of
 10 COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 1 to 3 were determined by aqueous gel
 permeation chromatography relative to sodium poly(styrene
 sulphonate) with UV-vis absorption detection at 785 nm.

The molecular weights of the copolymers and PEDOT
 prepared in reaction media purged of oxygen by bubbling through
 15 with nitrogen prior to the addition of initiator together with
 their concentrations in the dispersions produced and the
 theoretical concentration in mol% in the comonomer are
 summarized in Table 4.

Table 4:

(Co)polymer nr.	Comonomer		Concentration of Copolymer/PSS [wt%]	Molecular weight [785 nm]
	Nr.	mol%		
P2	-	0	1.02	490,000
P3	-	0	1.03	390,000
CP1	M1	10	0.78	620,000
CP2	M1	20	0.82	580,000
CP3	M2	10	0.82	670,000
CP4	M2	20	0.83	725,000
CP5	M3	10	0.76	560,000
CP6	M3	20	1.14	540,000
CP7	M4	10	0.65	650,000
CP8	M4	20	0.70	725,000
CP9	M5	10	0.8	430,000
CP10	M5	20	0.8	415,000
CP11	M6	10	0.80	750,000
CP12	M6	20	0.82	780,000

5 Preparation of layers prepared with dispersions containing the
copolymers of INVENTION EXAMPLES 1 to 12

Coating dispersions were prepared with the dispersions of
INVENTION EXAMPLES 1 to 12 as described above for the
dispersion of COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 1 to 3 so as to produce
10 layers, upon doctor blade-coating onto a subbed 175 μ m
poly(ethylene terephthalate) support and drying at 45°C for 3.5
minutes, with the following composition:

Copolymer of ADOT and comonomer (or PEDOT)	28.9mg/m ²
[copolymer of ADOT and comonomer (or PEDOT)/PSS	100 mg/m ²]
ZONYL® FSO100	8 mg/m ²
3-glycidoxypropyl-trimethoxysilane	100mg/m ²
copolymer latex of vinylidene chloride, methacrylate and itaconic acid (88/10/2)	100mg/m ²
N-methyl pyrrolidinone	2mL/m ²

15 Characterization of layers containing copolymers of
INVENTION EXAMPLES 1 to 12

The surface resistance and optical density and the light stability
of the layers containing the copolymers of INVENTION EXAMPLES 1 to

12 were determined as described above for the layers containing the homopolymers of COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 1 to 3. The results are summarized in Table 5.

5 Table 5:

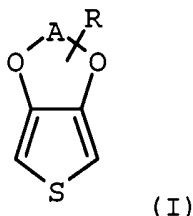
Example Nr	(Co)-polymer nr.	Comonomer		Layer containing (co)polymer		
		nr.	mol%	Surface resistance [Ω /square]	Ratio of surface resistance after 48h Suntest™ exposure to initial surface resistance	O.D.
COMP 2	P2	-	0	1200	13	0.066
COMP 3	P3	-	0	1200	12	0.065
INV 1	CP1	M1	10	1300	21	0.068
INV 2	CP2	M1	20	1400	27	0.068
INV 3	CP3	M2	10	1300	24	0.067
INV 4	CP4	M2	20	1200	20	0.067
INV 5	CP5	M3	10	2200	74	0.060
INV 6	CP6	M3	20	2500	72	0.063
INV 7	CP7	M4	10	1700	38	0.067
INV 8	CP8	M4	20	1300	24	0.067
INV 9	CP9	M5	10	5800	91	0.067
INV 10	CP10	M5	20	23000	1766	0.062
INV 11	CP11	M6	10	1900	28	0.069
INV 12	CP12	M6	20	1800	22	0.066

The expected properties of the EDOT-copolymers are intermediate between those of the corresponding homopolymers. However, the
 10 layers containing copolymers CP1, CP2, CP3, CP4 and CP8, copolymers of EDOT with M1, M2 and M4, exhibited comparable properties to those of P2 and P3.

The present invention may include any feature or combination of
 15 features disclosed herein either implicitly or explicitly or any generalisation thereof irrespective of whether it relates to the presently claimed invention. In view of the foregoing description it will be evident to a person skilled in the art that various modifications may be made within the scope of the
 20 invention.

CLAIMS

1. An aqueous dispersion of a copolymer of at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L and a polyanion.
2. Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein said 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L is represented by formula (I):



- in which: A represents a C₁₋₅-alkylene bridge; R represents an optionally substituted C₁₋₂₄-alkyl, C₃₋₁₈-cycloalkyl, C₁₋₁₈-alkoxy or polyethylene oxide group (optionally with at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of an alcohol, amide, ether, ester or sulfonate group) or an optionally substituted aryl group.
3. Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein said 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L has a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.5 g/L.
4. Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein said 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L has a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.7 g/L.
5. Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein said 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L is selected from the group consisting of: 3,4-dihydro-2H-thieno[3,4-b][1,4]dioxin-2-yl)methanol, 3,4-dihydro-2H-thieno[3,4-b][1,4]dioxepin-3-ol, (2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-b][1,4]dioxin-2-yl-methoxy)-acetic acid ethyl ester, (2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-b][1,4]dioxin-2-yl-methoxy)-

acetic acid, 2-{2-[2-(2-methoxy-ethoxy)-ethoxy]-ethoxymethyl}-2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-b][1,4]dioxine and 4-(2,3-dihydro-thieno[3,4-b][1,4]dioxin-2-ylmethoxy)-butane-1-sulfonic acid sodium salt.

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6. Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein said polyanion is poly(styrenesulphonate).
7. A chemical polymerization process for preparing an aqueous dispersion of a copolymer of at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L and a polyanion comprising the steps of: (i) providing a solution of a polyanion; (ii) adding a 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L and a 3,4-alkylenedioxy-thiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L to the solution provided in step (i); and (iii) adding an oxidizing or reducing system to the mixture provided in step (ii).
8. Use of an aqueous dispersion of a copolymer of at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L and a polyanion for coating an object.
9. A printable paste containing an aqueous dispersion according to any of claims 1 to 6.
10. An electroconductive layer containing copolymer of at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L and a polyanion derived from an aqueous dispersion thereof.
11. An antistatic layer containing a copolymer of at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water

at 25°C of less than 2.2 g/L with at least one 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene compound with a solubility in water at 25°C of at least 2.2 g/L and a polyanion derived from an aqueous dispersion thereof.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP 02/13157

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C08G61/12 C09D165/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C08G C09D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, CHEM ABS Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 198 41 804 A (BAYER AG) 16 March 2000 (2000-03-16) claims 1,4; example 1 ---	1-11
A	"EINSATZMOEGELICHKEITEN FUER POLYTHIOPHENE" RESEARCH DISCLOSURE, KENNETH MASON PUBLICATIONS, HAMPSHIRE, GB, no. 373, 1 May 1995 (1995-05-01), page 356 XP000518663 ISSN: 0374-4353 page 356 --- -/--	1-11

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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- *G* document member of the same patent family

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP 02/13157

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 199321 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A13, AN 1993-173307 XP002200125 ANONYMOUS: "Aq. poly:thiophene antistatic finishing compsn. for film - is prepd. by oxidative polymerisation of 3,4-ethylene di:oxy thiophene in aq. medium, in presence of catalyst" abstract & RESEARCH DISCLOSURE, vol. 348, no. 004, 10 April 1993 (1993-04-10), Emsworth, GB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p>	1-11
A	<p>US 5 111 327 A (PICKETT JAMES E ET AL) 5 May 1992 (1992-05-05) claims 1,7,8 examples 8,10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p>	1-11
A	<p>STEPHAN O ET AL: "ELECTROCHEMICAL BEHAVIOUR OF 3,4-ETHYLENEDIOXYTHIOPHENE FUNCTIONALIZED BY A SULPHONATE GROUP. APPLICATION TO THE PREPARATION OF POLY(3,4-ETHYLENEDIOXYTHIOPHENE) HAVING PERMANENT CATION-EXCHANGE PROPERTIES" JOURNAL OF THE ELECTROANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY, LAUSANNE, CH, vol. 443, no. 2, 1998, pages 217-226, XP000995724 ISSN: 0368-1874 cited in the application page 222</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p>	1-11
A	<p>NG S C ET AL: "SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF ELECTRICALLY CONDUCTING COPOLYMERS OF ETHYLENEDIOXYTHIOPHENE AND 1,3-PROPYLENEDIOXYTHIOPHENE WITH OMEGA-FUNCTIONAL SUBSTITUENTS" JOURNAL OF MATERIALS SCIENCE LETTERS, CHAPMAN AND HALL, GB, vol. 16, 1997, pages 809-811, XP001012692 ISSN: 0261-8028 cited in the application page 809</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	1-11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 02/13157

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			EP 1112673 A1	04-07-2001
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