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[54] FLUORINE-CONTAINING ACRYLATE AND METHACRYLATE SIDE-CHAIN LIQUID CRYSTAL MONOMERS AND
POLYMERS 含氟丙烯酸鹽和甲基丙烯酸鹽側鏈液晶單體和聚合物

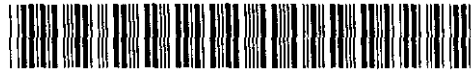
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(54) **FLUORINE-CONTAINING ACRYLATE AND METHACRYLATE SIDE-CHAIN LIQUID CRYSTAL MONOMERS AND POLYMERS.**

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Description

Field Of The Invention

5 This invention discloses novel fluorinated acrylate and methacrylate esters and relates to homopolymers and copolymers thereof. In another aspect, it relates to a process for preparing these monomers and polymers. The polymers and copolymers favor smectic mesophases due to the specific configuration and fluorine content of the compounds. Polymers and copolymers of the invention are useful for preparing optical data storage media, passive and active guide media, imaging media, display media, and the like.

Description Of Background Art

10 Low molecular weight liquid crystalline (LC) materials have found numerous applications in the technology area of electro-optics. Low molecular weight LC materials are attractive in display applications such as wrist watches, message boards, flat panel televisions, real-time optical data processing, waveguide switches, and the like. These and other applications are further described by J.D. Margerum and L.J. Miller in *J. Coll. Int. Sci.*, 58(3), 559 (1977). Liquid crystalline materials exhibit desirable anisotropic properties such as low birefringence, dielectric anisotropy and conductive anisotropy which permit the electro-optic applications to be feasible. Additional information concerning low molecular weight liquid crystalline materials for electro-optical applications and devices may be found in the books edited by T. Kallard, "Liquid Crystals and Their Applications", Optosonic Press: New York, 1970, pp. 205-207; and "Liquid crystal Devices", Optosonic Press: New York, 1973, pp. xi-xv.

Polymeric materials are known to have the advantage over nonpolymeric materials in that they can be processed and molded into desirable articles. Liquid crystalline guest-host materials incorporate both the processability of the polymer (host) with the electro-optical properties of the low molecular weight LC (guest). Guest-host materials are aligned in an electric field and the process is described in depth by J. L. West, *Mol. Cryst. Liq. Cryst. Inc. Nonlin. Opt.*, 157, 427 (1988) and also in the book edited by D. J. Williams, "Nonlinear Optical Properties of Organic and Polymeric Materials", American Chemical Society: Washington, D.C., 1983, pp. 109-133.

30 An alternative approach for incorporation of liquid crystalline materials into a polymer is to covalently attach the liquid crystalline mesogenic group to the polymeric backbone.

In general, there are two types of liquid crystalline polymers known in the art. They are main-chain liquid crystalline polymers (MCLCPs), where the mesogenic groups form the backbone of the molecular chains, and side-chain liquid crystalline polymers (SCLCPs), where the mesogenic groups are pendant to a polymer backbone, linked via a spacer group.

Recent developments in the technology of thermotropic liquid crystalline polymers may be found in review articles by: (1) T-S Chung, *Polym. Eng. Sci.*, 26(13), 901 (1986), (2) H. Finkelmann, *Crit. Rep. Appl. Chem.*, 22, 145 (1987), and (3) C. Noel, *Makromol. Chem., Macromol. Symp.*, 22, 95 (1988). A thorough discussion of many facets of liquid crystalline polymers is also contained in the book edited by C. B. McArdle, "Side-Chain Liquid Crystal Polymers", Chapman and Hall: New York, 1989, pp. 357-394.

40 Synthesis of side-chain liquid crystalline polymers containing hydrocarbon functionalities has been described in (a) U.S. Patent Nos. 4,631,328; 4,720,355; 4,795,664; 4,796,976; 4,804,255; and 4,818,807; (b) Eur. Pat. Appls. 188,785; 231,770; 262,680; and 271,730; (c) U.K. Pat. Appl. 2,185,487; and (d) DE 2,722,589. The art discloses that side-chain liquid crystalline polymers have unique properties that are suited for optical usage. U.S. Patent No. 4,631,328 describes polymers that contain mesogenic groups and dye radicals in the side-chains. Polymers derived therefrom can be used together with low molecular weight liquid crystals or liquid crystal mixtures, in electrooptical displays. Incorporation of a highly polar functional group onto the liquid crystalline mesogenic group has yielded side-chain liquid crystalline polymers that exhibit nonlinear optical responses. Eur. Pat. Application Nos. 231,770 and 262,680 describe methacrylate homopolymers containing a p-nitrobiphenyl mesogenic group which is decoupled from the polymeric backbone via a hexyloxy spacer group. These materials have been filled in poling cells and oriented through an externally applied electric field to give a transparent waveguide device. To increase the nonlinear optical response, Eur. Pat. Application No. 271,730 discloses incorporation of stilbene groups to give the material a large delocalized conjugated pi-electron system.

55 Incorporation of fluorine atoms into side-chain liquid crystalline polymers has been described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,717,757; 4,808,332; and 4,822,865. U.S. Patent No. 4,717,757 describes the reaction of 4-cyano-3-fluorophenol with 4-(acryloyloxyalkoxy)benzoyl chloride to yield a high dielectric material suitable for display devices. U.S. Patent Nos. 4,808,332 and 4,822,865 disclose nonlinear optical materials that have

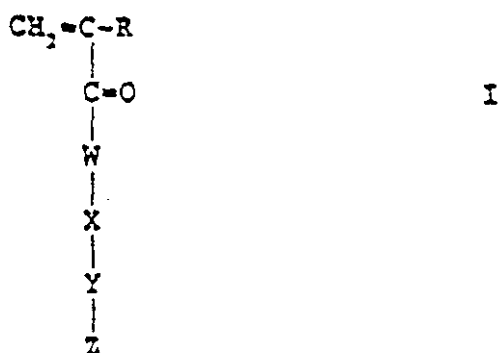
incorporated fluorine atoms into the polymer backbone. These materials display nonlinear optical responses and find applications in optical light switches and light modulator devices.

Acrylic monomers containing a telemeric fluorine tail group are described in FR Demande de Brevet 2,592,055. However, there is no mention or suggestion for producing liquid crystalline polymers that contain a rigid mesogenic group that contains a pendant fluorinated alkyl group, which is one of the embodiments of this invention.

EP-A-230,898 discloses liquid crystalline polyvinyl polymers which exhibit nonlinear optical response. A terminal group on the side-chain of the polymer can be Z' (see, for example, page 12, first paragraph) which can be -CF₃. Z' is attached directly to an aromatic group.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly, the present invention discloses novel polymerizable side-chain liquid crystalline monomers which are characterized by Formula I:



wherein

R can be hydrogen, halo, a C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₆-C₁₀ aryl, or C₁ to C₄ haloalkyl group having at least one F, Cl, or Br atom;

W can be -O- or -NR¹-

X can be a spacer group or a carbon-to-carbon single bond;

Y can be a mesogenic group;

Z has the formula -O-CH₂C_mF_{2m+1}, wherein m is an integer 1 to 12, aliphatic group comprising at least one non-peroxidic oxygen atom;

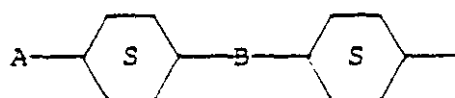
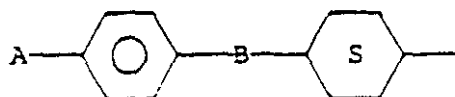
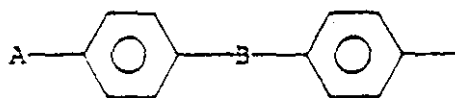
R¹ can be hydrogen, a C₁ to C₄ alkyl group, or a C₅ to C₁₂ aromatic group. Representative examples are methyl, ethyl, butyl, benzyl.

The preferred polymers of the invention are those which exhibit a smectic mesophase

Representative spacer groups, X, are C₂-C₂₀ (preferably C₂-C₁₂) saturated aliphatic groups which can be linear or branched, and optionally can be interrupted by at least one non-peroxidic oxygen or sulfur atom. The branching groups may comprise C₁-C₄ alkyl groups; C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups; halo or haloalkyl groups; and hydroxyl groups. The spacer group may also comprise a C₂-C₂₀ (preferably C₂-C₁₂) saturated fluoroaliphatic group which may be linear or branched, and optionally can be interrupted by at least one non-peroxidic oxygen or sulfur atom. The branching groups may consist of C₁-C₄ alkyl groups; C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups; halo or haloalkyl groups; and hydroxyl groups.

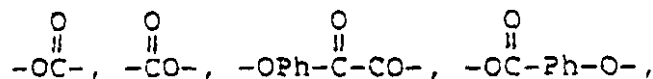
Mesogenic group, Y, can arise from those mentioned by McArdle, *infra*, as well as those disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,631,328. Representative Y groups include para-linked (i.e., having valence bonds in para position on the ring(s)) aromatics such as phenyl benzoates, phenyl benzamides, biphenyls, phenyl Schiff bases.

Preferred mesogenic groups are those which are represented by the formulae:

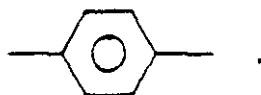


20 where

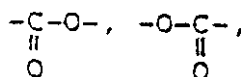
A can be -O-,



or -S-, wherein Ph =



B can be a covalent bond or group having the formula



40 -CH=CH-, -N=N-, -N=CH-, -CH=N-, or -C≡C-.

More particularly, Z is a fluorinated alkyl or alkoxy group. Fluorinated alkoxy groups, Z, are those earlier disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,886,619. Representative Z groups include 1,1-dihydroperfluoroalkoxy groups such as 1,1-dihydroperfluorobutoxy, 1,1-dihydroperfluorohexyloxy, and 1,1-dihydroperfluorooctyloxy groups.

In another aspect this invention provides novel homopolymers and copolymers derived from the novel side-chain liquid crystalline monomers that contain fluorinated alkoxy or alkyl groups.

In another disclosure, liquid crystalline acrylate and methacrylate monomers that contain a fluorinated alkoxy group are described. The monomers, by nature of the fluorinated group, show lower birefringence, increased hydrophobicity, and lower viscosity than do their hydrocarbon analogues. The monomers, when polymerized, find use in optical data storage media, passive and active guide media, imaging media, display media.

Preferred compounds disclosed are those wherein the fluorinated alkoxy group contains four carbon atoms, i.e. -OCH₂C₃F₇.

In another aspect, this invention provides a process (disclosed below) to prepare novel side-chain liquid crystalline polymers that contain a fluorinated alkyl or a fluorinated alkoxy group and exhibit a smectic mesophase. Alternative processes for obtaining precursors to the novel side-chain liquid crystalline monomers that contain fluorinated alkoxy groups are disclosed.

In this application:

"liquid crystal monomer" means any polymerizable rodlike molecule that can undergo transformations

into stable, intermediate semifluid state(s) before passing into the liquid state on heating or shows monotropic intermediate semifluid state(s) on cooling from the isotropic (liquid) state;

"liquid crystalline polymer" means a polymer that can undergo transformations into stable, intermediate semifluid state(s) before passing into the liquid state on heating or shows monotropic intermediate semifluid state(s) on cooling from the isotropic (liquid) state;

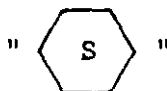
"monotropic" means a liquid crystal phase that is seen only on cooling from the isotropic (liquid) state;

"side-chain" means a pendent group, i.e. a group in the monomer which, upon polymerization of the monomer, is not located in the polymer backbone;

"mesogen" means any moiety which permits a molecule to attain a liquid crystalline phase;

"spacer group" means any moiety which partially decouples the mobility of the main chain polymer from that of the mesogenic group;

"halo" means halogen, i.e., Cl, F, Br, I;



means a saturated ring structure;

"acrylamide" and "acrylate" are used in a generic sense and mean not only derivatives of acrylic acid, but also methacrylic and other modified acrylic acids including both the so-called acryloyl, i.e., 2-propenoyl, and methacryloyl, i.e., 2-methyl-2-propenoyl, amine and alcohol derivatives;

"alkyl" and "alkylene" mean the monovalent and divalent residues remaining after removal of one and two hydrogen atoms, respectively, from linear or branched chain hydrocarbons having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

"lower alkyl" means C₁ to C₄ alkyl;

"aryl" means the monovalent residue remaining after removal of a hydrogen atom from an aromatic compound (single ring and multi- and fused-ring) having 5 to 12 ring atoms and includes substituted aromatics such as by lower alkaryl and aralkyl, lower alkoxy, N,N-di(lower alkyl)amino, nitro, cyano, halo, and lower alkyl carboxylic ester, wherein "lower" means C₁ to C₄;

"fluorinated" or "fluoro" means hydrocarbon groups in which at least 50 percent of the hydrogen atoms have been replaced by fluorine.

As is well understood in this technical area, a large degree of substitution is not only tolerated, but is often advisable. As a means of simplifying the discussion and the recitation of these groups, the terms "group" and "moiety" are used to differentiate between chemical species that allow for substitution or which may be substituted. For example, the phrase "alkyl group" is intended to include not only pure hydrocarbon alkyl chains such as methyl, ethyl, octyl, cyclohexyl, isooctyl, tert-butyl and the like, but also such alkyl chains bearing such conventional substituents in the art such as hydroxyl, alkoxy, phenyl, halo (F, Cl, Br, I), cyano, nitro, amino. The phrase "alkyl moiety" on the other hand is limited to the inclusion of only pure hydrocarbon alkyl chains such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, cyclohexyl, isooctyl, tert-butyl.

It is believed that the reaction of a 4-(1',1'-dihydroperfluoroalkoxy)phenol with 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkoxy)benzoic acid or 4-(omega-methacryloyloxyalkoxy)benzoic acid or 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkoxy)benzoyl chloride or 4-(omega-methacryloyloxyalkoxy)benzoyl chloride to yield reactive liquid crystalline monomers, which contain long fluorinated alkoxy or alkyl groups, has not been previously reported.

Polymers and copolymers of the invention exhibit lower birefringence, increased hydrophobicity, and lower viscosity than do their hydrocarbon analogues.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

Polymerizable side-chain liquid in liquid crystal monomers can be prepared as shown in the REACTION EQUATIONS A, B, C, and D, below, wherein

R² can be a chloro, bromo, or iodo,

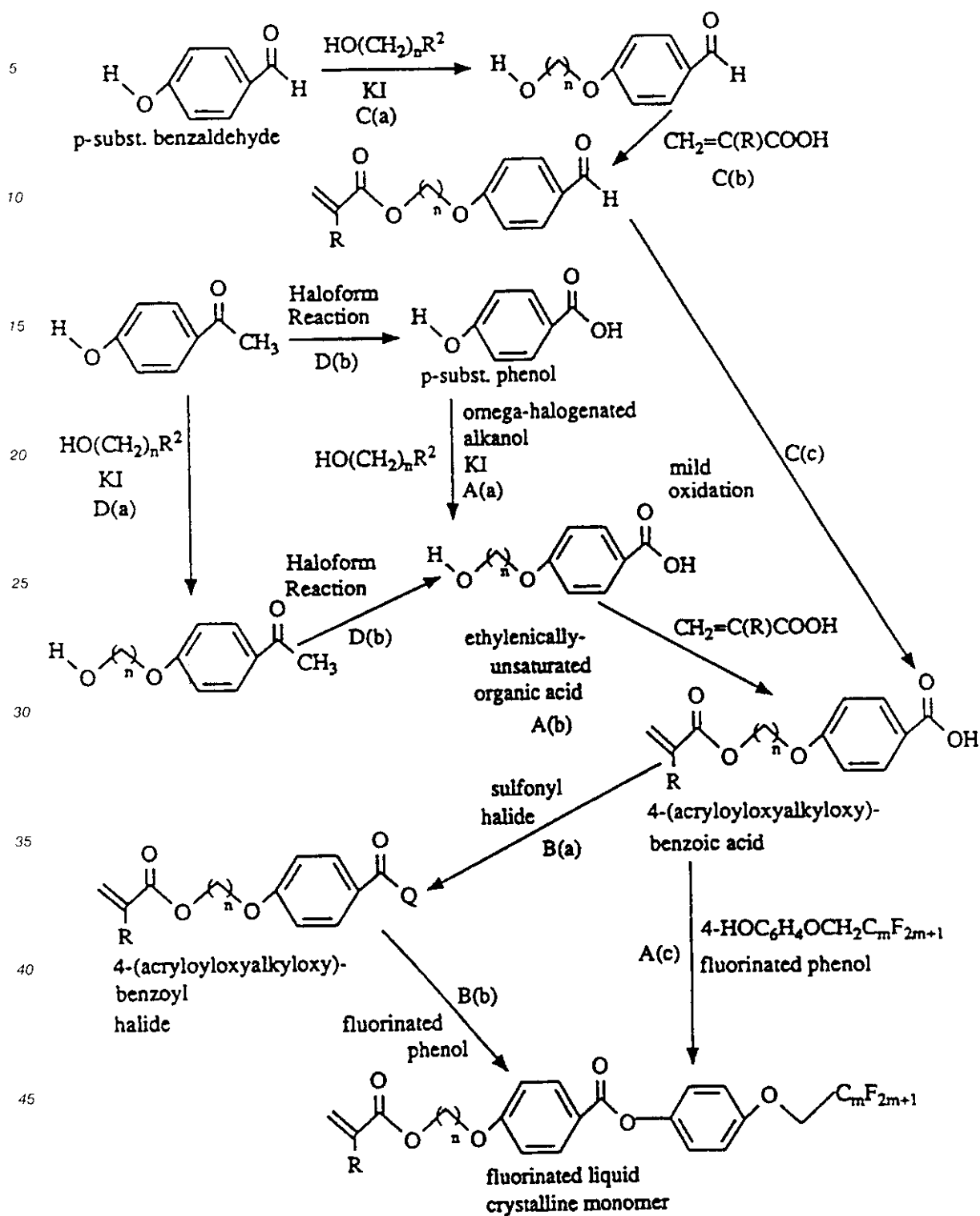
n can be an integer 2 to 12,

R can be as defined above but preferably is hydrogen, methyl, chloro, fluoro, or trifluoromethyl,

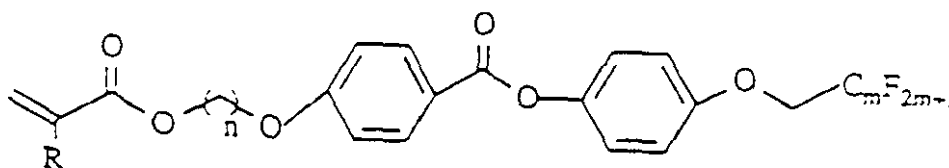
m can be an integer 1 to 12, and

Q is a halogen atom, preferably chlorine.

REACTION EQUATIONS



Representative polymerizable side-chain liquid crystal monomers include those having the formula:



R	n	m	Formula	Name
H	2	3	C ₂₂ H ₁₇ F ₇ O ₆	4-[4'-(2"-acryloyloxyethyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene
H	6	3	C ₂₆ H ₂₅ F ₇ O ₆	4-[4'-(6"-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene
H	8	3	C ₂₈ H ₂₉ F ₇ O ₆	4-[4'-(8"-acryloyloxyoctyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene
H	11	3	C ₃₁ H ₃₅ F ₇ O ₆	4-[4'-(11"-acryloyloxyundecyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene
H	6	1	C ₂₄ H ₂₅ F ₃ O ₆	4-[4'-(6"-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluoroethyloxy)benzene
H	6	7	C ₃₀ H ₂₅ F ₁₅ O ₆	4-[4'-(6"-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorooctyloxy)benzene
CH ₃	3	3	C ₂₄ H ₂₁ F ₇ O ₆	4-[4'-(3"-methacryloyloxypropyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene
CH ₃	6	3	C ₂₇ H ₂₇ F ₇ O ₆	4-[4'-(6"-methacryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene

In the process of the invention, the initial reaction (REACTION EQUATION step A(a)) to yield a 4-(omega-hydroxyalkyloxy)benzoic acid is the reaction of an omega-halogenated alkanol in the presence of a para-substituted phenoxide. The phenoxide is generated in a basic aqueous-alcoholic medium and the reaction is facilitated in the presence of an inorganic salt, preferably potassium iodide. Examples of halogenated alkanols would include: 2-bromoethanol, 2-chloroethanol, 2-fluoroethanol, 2-iodoethanol, 3-bromo-1-propanol, 3-chloro-1-propanol, 4-chloro-1-butanol, 6-bromo-1-hexanol, 6-chloro-1-hexanol, 8-bromo-1-octanol, 10-chloro-1-decanol, 11-bromo-1-undecanol, and 12-bromo-1-dodecanol. These materials are commercially available, for example, from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI. Other suitable halogenated alkanols include: 2-(2-chloroethoxy)ethanol, 3-bromo-2,2-dimethyl-1-propanol, 3-chloro-2,2-dimethyl-1-propanol, (R)-(-)-3-bromo-2-methyl-1-propanol, (S)-(+)-3-bromo-2-methyl-1-propanol, 2-chlorocyclohexanol.

These compounds are commercially available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI.

The phenoxide may be generated using an inorganic alkali such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide. Potassium hydroxide is the preferred inorganic base. The aqueous-alcoholic medium may include aqueous-methanol, -ethanol, -propanol, -butanol. It is preferable to carry out the process of the invention in aqueous ethanol with a volume to volume ratio of water to alcohol being 1 to 2, respectively. Reactions may take place at ambient temperature but are enhanced at elevated (reflux) temperatures. Phenoxides may be formed utilizing para-substituted benzoic acids such as: 4-hydroxybenzoic acid (most preferred), 4-hydroxyphenylacetic acid, 3-(4'-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid, 4-hydroxyphenylpyruvic acid, 3-chloro-4-hydroxybenzoic acid hemihydrate, 4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzoic acid, 3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzoic acid, 3,5-dichloro-4-hydroxybenzoic acid, syringic acid, and 3,5-diiodo-4-p-hydroxyphenoxyphenylacetic acid (diiodothyroacetic acid). These compounds are commercially available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI.

Esterification of 4-(omega-hydroxyalkyloxy)benzoic acid (REACTION EQUATION step A(b)) to give 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoic acid is accomplished with an ethylenically-unsaturated organic acid in a solvent which is inert under the reaction conditions employed. Reaction solvents favored are those which are incompatible with water such as benzene, toluene, xylene, and chloroform. Representative organic acids

include acrylic acid and methacrylic acid available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI., or 2-chloroacrylic acid available from Monomer-Polymer and Dajac Laboratories, Inc., Trevose, PA. Continuous removal of the aqueous phase from the reaction mixture by use of a Dean-Stark water trap throughout the duration of the reaction enhances the kinetics of the process. Preferred reaction temperatures of the process are at reflux. The esterification reaction is enhanced in the presence of minor amounts, i.e. 0.01 to 1.0 weight percent, of an organic acid such as para-toluenesulfonic acid, camphorsulfonic acid, trifluoroacetic acid, or trifluoromethanesulfonic acid (triflic acid). The reaction is yet further enhanced by addition of an inorganic acid, such as boric acid, in conjunction with the organic acid. Because of the reactive nature of the polymerizable acrylate group, it is desirable to carry out this stage of the process in the presence of a free-radical scavenger, to prevent premature polymerization of this resultant intermediate. Polymerization inhibitors such as hydroquinone, hydroquinone monomethyl ether, or phenothiazine are suitable. These compounds are commercially available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI.

Fluorinated liquid crystalline monomers, 4-[4'-(omega-acryloyloxyalkoxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1'',1''-dihydroperfluoroalkoxy)benzene, are generated by action of 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkoxy)benzoic acid with a suitable fluorinated phenol (REACTION EQUATION step A(c)). Fluorinated phenols are generated using the methods disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,886,619. Representative fluorinated phenols include:

4-(1',1'-dihydroperfluorobutoxy)phenol,
 4-(1',1'-dihydroperfluorohexyloxy)phenol,
 4-(1',1'-dihydroperfluorooctyloxy)phenol,
 4-(1',1',2',2'-tetrahydroperfluorohexyloxy)phenol,
 4-(1',1',7'-trihydroperfluoroheptyloxy)phenol,
 4-(1',1',11'-trihydroperfluoroundecyloxy)phenol,
 1-(4'-hydroxyphenoxy)-2-(1'',1''-dihydroperfluorooctyloxy) ethane, and 4-(1',1'-dihydroperfluoroethoxy)-phenol. Fluorinated precursors of the process are commercially available from Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing, St. Paul, MN or E.I. DuPont DeNemours, Wilmington, DE. Esterification reactions can be carried out in halogenated solvents such as dichloromethane, chloroform, dichloroethane, carbon tetrachloride. Other suitable solvents include acetonitrile, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, toluene. Where solubility of the reactants is limited, mixtures of solvents may be employed. Processes of the invention may be accomplished by use of a dehydrating agent. Representative dehydrating agents useful in the invention process include N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (most preferred), trifluoroacetic anhydride, N,N'-carbonyldiimidazole.

Preferably, these can be present in an amount in the range 100 to 150 mole percent. Reactions can be catalyzed in the presence of minor amounts, e.g. 0.01 to 0.05 weight percent, of 4-dimethylaminopyridine. Reaction temperatures are quite mild. For many purposes, temperatures of 15° to 30°C are adequate.

Another approach to the preparation of fluorinated liquid crystalline monomers is to transform 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkoxy)benzoic acid to its acid halide, preferably acid chloride, 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkoxy)-benzoyl chloride, as is outlined in REACTION EQUATIONS B(a) and B(b), above.

This transformation may be accomplished by action of a sulfonyl halide, for example a sulfonyl chloride, such as thionyl chloride on 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkoxy)benzoic acid. Oxalyl chloride may also be employed in acylation of benzoic acid. Reactions can be catalyzed, for example, by addition of N,N-dimethylformamide. It may also be desirable to carry out this portion of the synthetic process of the invention in the presence of a polymerization inhibitor. Suitable radical scavengers are, for example, substituted phenols such as 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol, commercially available under the trade name Ultrinox 226™ (Borg-Warner Chemicals, Inc., Parkersburg, NY), or octadecyl-3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate, commercially available under the trade names Isonox 132™ (Schenectady Chemicals, Inc., Schenectady, NY) or Vanox 1320™ (Vanderbilt Co., Inc., Norwalk, CT). The reaction can be performed at ambient temperature. Preferred temperatures are 0°C to 25°C.

The 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkoxy)benzoyl chloride prepared above can be used in the formation of 4-[4'-(omega-acryloyloxyalkoxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1'',1''-dihydroperfluoroalkoxy)benzene. REACTION EQUATION step B(b) process can be performed in an ethereal solvent. Ethereal solvents such as tetrahydrofuran, diethyl ether, glyme are suitable. It is preferable to carry out the process of the invention under dry, i.e., non-aqueous conditions, to avoid side reactions of the acid chloride. It is also preferred to carry out the process in the presence of a base such as triethylamine. The process may also be performed with other organic bases such as tripropylamine, tributylamine, trihexylamine, trioctylamine, triphenylamine. Temperatures required to carry out the process are generally below room temperature (23°C). Temperatures of 0° to 10°C are adequate.

Another process to provide 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkoxy)benzoic acid is given in REACTION EQUATIONS C(a), C(b), and C(c) above.

In a process known in the art, a para-substituted hydroxy benzaldehyde is utilized in the preparation of 4-(omega-hydroxyalkyloxy)benzaldehyde. Action of an omega-halogenated-1-alkanol in the presence of a para-substituted phenoxide is again the key synthetic process of the invention (REACTION EQUATION step C(a)). The phenoxide is generated in a basic aqueous-alcoholic medium and the reaction is facilitated in the presence of an inorganic salt, such as potassium iodide. Omega-halogenated alkanols are those previously disclosed above. Phenoxides useful in this invention may be generated from para-hydroxybenzaldehydes. Suitable benzaldehydes include: 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde, vanillin, 3-ethoxy-4-hydroxybenzaldehyde, 4-hydroxy-3-nitrobenzaldehyde, 3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxybenzaldehyde, 3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzaldehyde, syringaldehyde, 3-chloro-4-hydroxy-5-methoxybenzaldehyde, 5-bromovanillin, 5-iodovanillin, and 5-nitrovanillin. These compounds are commercially available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI. 4-Hydroxybenzaldehyde is most preferred.

Phenoxides may be generated using an inorganic alkali such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide. Sodium hydroxide is the preferred inorganic base. The aqueous-alcoholic medium may include aqueous-methanol, -ethanol, -propanol, -butanol, and the like. It is preferable to carry out the process of the invention in aqueous methanol with a volume to volume ratio of water to methanol of 1 to 3.75, respectively. Reactions are at ambient temperature but are enhanced at elevated (reflux) temperatures.

Esterification of 4-(omega-hydroxyalkyloxy)benzaldehyde to give 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzaldehyde is accomplished with an ethylenically-unsaturated organic acid halide (REACTION EQUATION step C(b)). Suitable organic acid halides include acryloyl chloride and methacryloyl chloride commercially available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI. The preferred polar organic solvent to accomplish the synthetic process is N,N-dimethylaniline. Reaction temperatures of the process are quite mild, e.g., room temperature or below. For many purposes, temperatures of 0° to 10°C are adequate.

To perform the oxidation process where the 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzaldehyde is converted to the corresponding 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoic acid, a mild buffered reaction medium can be employed (REACTION EQUATION step C(c)). Processes are preferably carried out in solvents which are inert to reaction conditions.

Suitable polar organic solvents for this transformation include methanol, ethanol, propanol, t-butanol. A co-solvent such as 2-methyl-2-butene is beneficial in the process. A solvent mixture of t-butanol and 2-methyl-2-butene in a 4 to 1 volume ratio, is preferred.

Oxidation agents of the invention must not disturb the reactive polymerizable group. Oxidation agents may include peracids such as perbenzoic acid, peracetic acid, peroxytrifluoroacetic acid. Inorganic oxidation agents such as a permanganate, chromic acid, bromine, silver oxide, sodium chlorite may also be employed in the process of the invention. To prevent transesterification during the process, it is preferable to use a buffer in connection with the oxidation agent. The most preferable combination of oxidation agent and buffer is sodium chlorite and sodium phosphate, monobasic monohydrate. To conduct the oxidation process, the oxidation agent and the buffer are solvolyzed in an aqueous medium, e.g., water.

It is preferred to carry out the process at room temperature (e.g. 20-25°C). Addition of the aqueous oxidation/buffer mixture to the oxidation substrate solvolyzed in a solvent mixture of t-butanol and 2-methyl-2-butene in a 4 to 1 volume ratio, is preferred.

Another process which can provide the desired 4-(omega-hydroxyalkyloxy)benzoic acid (REACTION EQUATION step A(a)), is given in REACTION EQUATIONS D(a) and D(b), above.

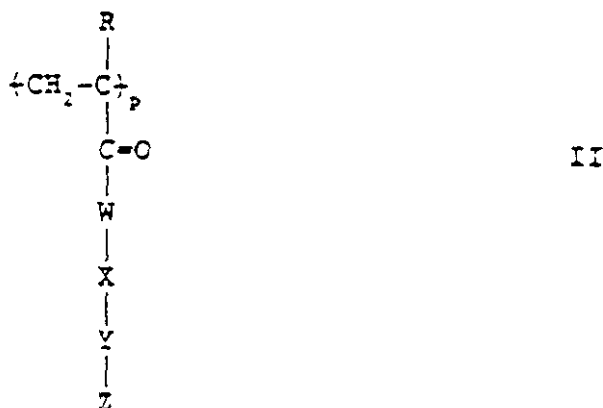
In a process well known in the art, a para-substituted acetophenone can be utilized as a key starting material in the synthetic process. For example, p-hydroxyacetophenone (commercially available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) may be etherified to provide a 4-(omega-hydroxyalkyloxy)acetophenone (REACTION EQUATION step D(a)). This acetophenone, in turn, can be caused to undergo the haloform reaction, a reaction well known in the art (see Organic Chemistry by L. F. Fieser and M. Fieser, D.C. Heath, Boston, MA, 1950, pp. 152-155, p. 739) to convert the acetophenone to the 4-(omega-hydroxyalkyloxy)benzoic acid (REACTION EQUATION step D(b)). This acid can then be caused to undergo esterification (REACTION EQUATION step A(c)) to give the desired fluorinated liquid crystalline monomer.

Alternatively, one could prepare 4-hydroxybenzoic acid from p-hydroxyacetophenone and then proceed through the haloform reaction as indicated in the REACTION EQUATION step D(b), above.

Transformation of 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoic acid to the fluorinated liquid crystalline monomer, 4-[4'-(omega-acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1'',1''-dihydroperfluoroalkyloxy)benzene, has been discussed previously (vide supra).

Preferred monomers are those wherein R of Formula I is hydrogen or methyl, n is six, and m is three.

By reason of the unsaturation of the monomers, novel and useful polymers of the invention, which are liquid crystalline, are obtained by polymerization of monomers of Formula I to form homopolymers having the structure of Formula II:

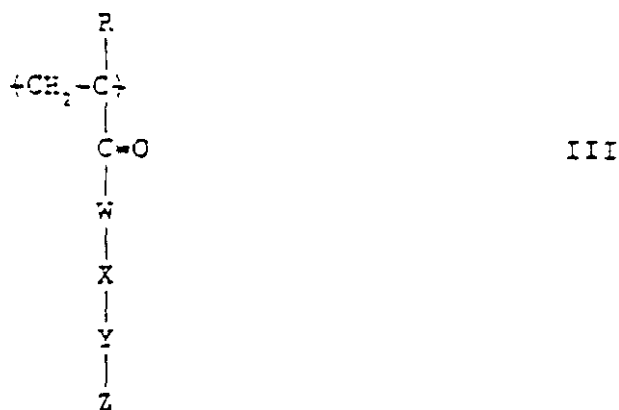


wherein

R, W, X, Y, and Z are as described above, and p is an integer having a value of 4 to 3500, preferably 20 to 600, and more preferably 50 to 300, to provide the polymers with approximate number average molecular weight in the range of 2,000 to 2 million, preferably in the range of 10,000 to 170,000, more preferably 30,000 to 110,000.

Representative examples of homopolymers include: poly-4-[4'-(6"-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene, poly-4-[4'-(8"-acryloyloxyoctyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene, poly-4-[4'-(11"-acryloyloxyundecyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene, and poly-4-[4'-(3"-methacryloyloxypropyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene.

Copolymers having units of the formula



wherein R, W, X, Y, and Z are as previously defined, can be formed from the monomers of the present invention with any compatible ethylenically-unsaturated comonomer in any proportion. copolymers of the invention are liquid crystalline. Representative comonomers include: (a) acrylates or methacrylates such as methyl (meth)acrylate, lauryl (meth)acrylate, dodecyl (meth)acrylate, and the like; (b) styrenes such as styrene, alpha-methylstyrene, and para-chlorostyrene; (c) acrylamides and methacrylamides such as acrylamide, dimethylacrylamide, isopropylacrylamide, and phenylacrylamide; (d) ethylenically-unsaturated monomers (vinyl monomers), such as vinyl chloride, vinyl acetate, vinylidene fluoride, and vinyl azlactones, and (e) allyl derivatives, such as diallyl phthalate, triallyl cyanurate, and the like.

Preferably the copolymer contains at least 5 percent by weight of at least one monomer of the invention and most preferably at least 50 percent by weight of a monomer of the invention. Copolymers have number average molecular weights in the range of 2,000 to 2 million, preferably in the range of 10,000 to 170,000, more preferably 30,000 to 110,000.

When the monomers form copolymers, units selected from the above structures and comonomer units may react in any proportion (0.1 to 99.9 : 99.9 to 0.1) and will be distributed throughout the polymer in a more or less random fashion depending upon the comonomer and the degree of its similarity of polymerization kinetics to those of the monomer of Formula I; as is known to those skilled in the art.

Representative examples of copolymers include: poly-4-[4'-(3''-methacryloyloxypropyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene-co-methyl methacrylate, poly-4-[4'-(3''-methacryloyloxypropyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene-co-lauryl methacrylate, poly-4-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene-co-methyl methacrylate, poly-4-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene-co-lauryl methacrylate, poly-4-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene-co-4-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-cyanobenzene, poly-4-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene-co-4-cyano-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)biphenyl], poly-4-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene-co-4-[4'-(3''-methacryloyloxypropyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene, poly-4-[4'-(8''-acryloyloxyoctyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene-co-4-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-cyanobenzene, poly-4-[4'-(8''-acryloyloxyoctyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene-co-4-cyano-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)biphenyl], poly-4-[4'-(11''-acryloyloxyundecyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene-co-4-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-cyanobenzene, and poly-4-[4'-(11''-acryloyloxyundecyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene-co-4-cyano-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)biphenyl].

Preferred homopolymers and copolymers are shown in Table 1 below, wherein the mole ratio of a:b can be in the range of 0.1:99.9 and more preferably 99.9: 0.1.

Polymerization of the monomers may be carried out by employing initiators which generate free radicals on application of activating energy as is conventionally used in the polymerization of ethylenically-unsaturated monomers. Included among useful free radical initiators are thermally activated initiators such as organic peroxides, organic hydroperoxides, and azo compounds. Representative examples of such initiators include benzoyl peroxide, tertiary-butyl perbenzoate, diisopropyl peroxydicarbonate, cumene hydroperoxide, azobis(isobutyronitrile) (AIBN), and the like. Generally, from about 0.1 to 5 percent by weight of thermal initiator is used.

Actinic radiation may be utilized to initiate polymerization. High energy electrons emitted from commercial electron beam generators are commonly employed in these ionizing radiation systems. Photoinitiators may also be employed to initiate polymerization. Such initiators are well known and have been described in the polymerization art, e.g. Chapter II of "Photochemistry" by Calvert and Pitts, Wiley, New York, 1966. Preferred photoinitiators are those which facilitate polymerization when a composition is irradiated with ultraviolet light. Representative examples of such initiators include acyloin and derivatives thereof, such as benzoin, benzoin ethyl ether, benzoin isopropyl ether, alpha-methylbenzoin; diketones such as benzil, and diacetyl, etc.; ketones such as acetophenone, methyl benzoylformate, 2-hydroxy-2-methyl-1-phenyl-1-propanone, benzophenone, and the like. Normally, the photoinitiator is used in amounts ranging from about 0.001 to 5 percent by weight of the total monomeric composition. Preferably, about 0.05 to 1.0 percent of photoinitiator based on the total composition is used in the polymerizable compositions.

When the activating energy is only heat, polymerization is usually carried out at a temperature in the range of 40° to 140° C for about 5 to 48 hours. It is to be understood that polymerization conditions are not limited to the stated temperature or time conditions, nor is initiation limited to use of ultraviolet radiation or heat. It is also within the scope of the invention for 2-stage curing to be utilized, i.e. radiation and heat in either order or simultaneously.

Copolymers are preferably prepared by mixing compatible ethylenically-unsaturated monomers with the monomers of the invention in the presence of free radical catalysts in the presence of heat or UV irradiation as necessary for suitable reaction rate to obtain the desired copolymers.

The novel fluorinated liquid crystalline polymers and copolymers of the present invention and exhibit a smectic mesophase are useful in electrooptical devices. In an electric field, the polymers and copolymers of the invention exhibit the same electrooptic effects as low molecular weight liquid crystalline materials. However, these polymeric materials have the advantage over the low molecular weight materials in that the

polymers offer the possibility of storing information in electrooptical displays, since the mesophases can be stabilized by cooling the polymer to its glass transition temperature (T_g). Moreover, polymers and copolymers of the invention exhibit lower birefringence, increased hydrophobicity, and lower viscosity than do their hydrocarbon analogues and provide an advantage in ease of preparation of electrooptical devices.

Objects and advantages of this invention are further illustrated by the following examples, but the particular materials and amounts thereof recited in these examples, as well as other conditions and details, should not be construed to unduly limit this invention.

EXAMPLES

In the following examples, all monomeric intermediates and products were confirmed and characterized by one or more of the following analytical methods: ^1H NMR (proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy), ^{19}F NMR (fluorine nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy), IR (infrared spectroscopy), MS (mass spectroscopy), and HRMS (high resolution mass spectroscopy). Monomeric intermediates and products were consistent with their structures based on satisfactory analytical data and interpretations.

REFERENCE EXAMPLE 1

Preparation of 4-(omega-hydroxyethoxy)benzoic acid

In a one liter, three-necked round-bottomed flask fitted with a mechanical stirrer, addition funnel, and reflux condenser, were charged potassium hydroxide (available from Fisher Scientific Co., Fair Lawn, NJ) (92 grams; 1.7 moles), water (128 mL), and ethyl alcohol (256 mL). The resulting basic solution was then cautiously charged with 4-hydroxybenzoic acid (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (100 grams; 0.7 mole) at ambient temperature. The mixture became exothermic and a homogeneous solution resulted within thirty minutes. The phenoxide solution was then treated with potassium iodide (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (3 grams; 15 mmoles) followed by dropwise addition of 2-chloroethanol (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (50 grams; 0.6 mole) over fifteen minutes. The solution was heated to reflux for 12 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled and ethanol was removed using a rotary evaporator. The residue was diluted with 500 mL of water and made acidic (pH ~ 2) by addition of 4N HCl. The resulting insoluble white solid was collected by vacuum filtration and was exhaustively washed with water. The white solid was recrystallized from ethyl alcohol to leave 72 grams of material which represents a 64 percent yield from starting material. Spectral analysis confirmed the presence of 4-(omega-hydroxyethoxy)benzoic acid.

REFERENCE EXAMPLES 2-6

In Ref. Ex. 2-6, compounds were prepared as in Ref.Ex. 1 except that in Ref.Ex. 2, 3-bromo-1-propanol (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (100 grams; 0.7 mole) was substituted for the 2-chloroethanol; in Ref.Ex. 3, 6-chloro-1-hexanol (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (100 grams; 0.7 mole) was substituted for the 2-chloroethanol; in Ref.Ex. 4, 8-bromo-1-octanol (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (25 grams; 0.1 mole) was substituted for the 2-chloroethanol; in Ref.Ex. 5, 11-bromo-1-undecanol (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (100 grams; 0.4 mole) was substituted for the 2-chloroethanol; and in Ref.Ex. 6, 12-bromo-1-dodecanol (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (15 grams; 0.06 mole) was substituted for the 2-chloroethanol. The products were 4-(omega-hydroxypropyloxy)benzoic acid (Ref.Ex. 2), 4-(omega-hydroxyhexyloxy)benzoic acid (Ref.Ex. 3), 4-(omega-hydroxyoctyloxy)benzoic acid (Ref.Ex. 4), 4-(omega-hydroxyundecyloxy)benzoic acid (Ref.Ex. 5), and 4-(omega-hydroxydodecyloxy)benzoic acid (Ref.Ex. 6). Spectral analysis confirmed the presence of these products.

REFERENCE EXAMPLE 7

Preparation of 4-(omega-hydroxyhexyloxy)benzaldehyde

In a 500 mL, three-necked round-bottomed flask, fitted with a mechanical stirrer, addition funnel, and reflux condenser, were charged sodium hydroxide (available from Fisher Scientific Co., Fair Lawn, NJ) (11 grams; 0.3 mole), water (40 mL), and methyl alcohol (150 mL). The resulting basic solution was then cautiously charged with 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (30

grams; 0.3 mole) at ambient temperature. The dark colored phenoxide solution was then treated with potassium iodide (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (0.3 grams; 2 mmoles) followed by dropwise addition of 6-chloro-1-hexanol (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (34 grams; 0.3 mole) over thirty minutes. After addition was complete, the solution was heated to reflux for 48 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled and the contents of the flask poured into a separatory funnel containing dichloromethane (800 mL) and water (400 mL). The organic layer was worked up in this and appropriate subsequent examples, in a series of steps, designated as follows, and called "the organic layer was processed". By this method it is meant that the organic layer was separated, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and filtered; the filtrate was concentrated using a rotary evaporator. The residue was purified utilizing a Waters Prep LC System 500A instrument (Waters Associates, Milford, MA). The eluant was a solvent mixture of heptane/ethyl acetate in a 3:1 volume ratio. An analytically pure sample (greater than 99% pure) weighed 14 grams. Spectral analysis confirmed the presence of 4-(omega-hydroxyhexyloxy)benzaldehyde.

REFERENCE EXAMPLE 8

Preparation of 4-(2'-acryloyloxyethyloxy)benzoic acid

In a two-necked 500 mL round-bottomed flask, fitted with a Dean-Stark water trap along with a reflux condenser and a ground glass stopper, was added benzene (120 mL) and acrylic acid (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (126 grams, 1.7 moles). The solvent mixture was then charged with 4-(omega-hydroxyethyloxy)benzoic acid (from Ref.Ex. 1) (36 grams, 0.2 mole), hydroquinone (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (8 grams, 70 mmoles), para-toluenesulfonic acid (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (8 grams, 40 mmoles), and boric acid (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (200 mg, 3 mmoles). The mixture was heated to reflux and kept at that temperature for 15 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured into a separatory funnel containing diethyl ether (500 mL). The organic solution was exhaustively washed with warm water until the odor of acrylic acid was no longer detected. The organic layer was processed. The residue was recrystallized from isopropanol to yield 29 grams of material which represents a 61 percent yield from starting material. Spectral analysis confirmed the presence of 4-(2'-acryloyloxyethyloxy)benzoic acid.

REFERENCE EXAMPLES 9-11

In Ref. Ex. 9-11, compounds were prepared as in Ref.Ex. 8 except that in Ref.Ex. 9, 4-(omega-hydroxyhexyloxy)benzoic acid (from Ref.Ex. 3) (37 grams; 0.2 mole) was substituted for the 4-(omega-hydroxyethyloxy)benzoic acid; in Ref.Ex. 10, 4-(omega-hydroxyoctyloxy)benzoic acid (from Ref.Ex. 4) (15 grams; 0.1 mole) was substituted for the 4-(omega-hydroxyethyloxy)benzoic acid; and in Ref.Ex. 11, 4-(omega-hydroxyundecyloxy)benzoic acid (from Ref.Ex. 5) (11 grams; 0.04 mole) was substituted for the 4-(omega-hydroxyethyloxy)benzoic acid. The products were 4-(6'-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoic acid (Ref.Ex. 9), 4-(8'-acryloyloxyoctyloxy)benzoic acid (Ref.Ex. 10), and 4-(11'-acryloyloxyundecyloxy)benzoic acid (Ref.Ex. 11), as confirmed by spectral analyses.

REFERENCE EXAMPLE 12

Preparation of 4-(6'-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzaldehyde

In a 250 mL round-bottomed flask was charged 4-(omega-hydroxyhexyloxy)benzaldehyde (from Ref.Ex. 7) (13 grams; 0.06 mole) and N,N-dimethylaniline (45 mL). The resulting solution was then treated at room temperature with acryloyl chloride (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (6 grams; 0.06 mole) by dropwise addition over 10 minutes. The resulting solution was stirred for 30 minutes at ambient temperature and diluted with water (100 mL). The aqueous mixture was made acidic (pH ~ 2) by addition of 4N HCl, and the contents of the flask were poured into a separatory funnel containing diethyl ether (200 mL). The organic layer was separated and continuously washed with 4N HCl to remove the residual N,N-dimethylaniline. The ethereal layer was finally partitioned between water for the final extraction. The organic layer was processed. Spectral analysis of the residue indicated the material to be 4-(6'-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzaldehyde which was greater than 95% pure.

REFERENCE EXAMPLE 13

Preparation of 4-(6'-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoic acid (Alternative Method to Ref.Ex. 9)

5 In a 2 liter three-necked round-bottomed flask, fitted with a mechanical stirrer, dropping funnel, and ground glass stopper, were charged 4-(6'-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzaldehyde (from Example 12) (22 grams; 0.1 mole), tertiary-butyl alcohol (500 mL), and 2-methyl-2-butene (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (232 grams; 3 moles). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature. Over two hours, a solution of sodium chlorite (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (65 grams; 0.7 mole) and sodium phosphate, monobasic monohydrate (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (75 grams; 0.5 mole) in water (300 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 hours at ambient temperature at which time the organic solvents were concentrated by rotary evaporator. The residue was then dissolved in diethyl ether (500 mL) and the mixture was made acidic (pH ~ 2) by addition of 4N HCl. The mixture was poured into a separatory funnel and the organic layer was processed. The residue was recrystallized from ethanol. Spectral analysis confirmed the presence of 4-(6'-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoic acid. The crystals weighed 15 grams which represents a 65 percent yield based on starting material.

REFERENCE EXAMPLE 14

20 Preparation of 4-(11'-methacryloyloxyundecyloxy)benzoic acid

In a three-necked 250 mL round-bottomed flask, fitted with a Dean-Stark water trap along with a reflux condenser, a mechanical stirrer, and a ground glass stopper, was added benzene (50 mL) and methacrylic acid (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (51 grams, 0.6 mole). The solvent mixture was then charged with 4-(omega-hydroxyundecyloxy)benzoic acid (from Ref.Ex. 5) (15 grams, 0.05 mole), hydroquinone (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (2 grams, 0.02 mole), para-toluenesulfonic acid (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (2 grams, 0.01 mole), and boric acid (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (50 mg, 0.8 mmole). The reaction mixture was heated to reflux and kept at that temperature for 12 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature at which time the material solidified. The solid residue was then dissolved in hot ethanol (400 mL) which afforded the desired compound as confirmed by spectral analysis, in greater than 95% purity.

REFERENCE EXAMPLES 15-16

35 In Ref. Ex. 15-16 compounds were prepared as in Ref.Ex. 14 except that in Ref.Ex. 15, 4-(omega-hydroxypropyloxy)benzoic acid (from Ref.Ex. 2) (25 grams, 0.1 mole) was substituted for the 4-(omega-hydroxyundecyloxy)benzoic acid; in Ref.Ex. 16, 4-(omega-hydroxyhexyloxy)benzoic acid (from Ref.Ex. 3) (77 grams, 0.9 mole) was substituted for the 4-(omega-hydroxyundecyloxy)benzoic acid. The thus-produced products, as confirmed by spectral analyses, were 4-(3'-methacryloyloxypropyloxy)benzoic acid (Ref.Ex. 15) and 4-(6'-methacryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoic acid (Ref.Ex. 16).

REFERENCE EXAMPLE 17

45 Preparation of 4-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene

In a 250 mL round-bottomed flask, were charged 4-(6'-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoic acid (from Ref.Ex. 9) (9 grams, 0.03 mole), dichloromethane (100 mL), and THF (50 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at ambient temperature and treated with 4-(1',1'-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)phenol (prepared as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,886,619, Example 21) (9 grams, 0.03 mole) followed by the addition of N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (6 grams, 0.03 mole), and N,N'-dimethylaminopyridine (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (0.6 grams, 5 mmoles). The reaction mixture was stirred for 20 hours under an atmosphere of nitrogen. The insoluble N,N'-dicyclohexylurea was filtered by gravity from the reaction medium and the filtrate concentrated under reduced pressure to leave a sirupy residue. The residue was taken up in dichloromethane (150 mL) and the solution was transferred into a separatory funnel. The organic layer was washed one time each with 0.5 M HCl, 5% sodium bicarbonate, water, and saturated brine in 75 mL portions. The organic layer was processed. The solid residue was recrystallized from ethanol to leave 8 grams of desired compound, as confirmed by

spectral analysis, representing a yield of 45 percent based on starting benzoic acid.

REFERENCE EXAMPLES 18-20

5 In Ref. Ex. 18-20, compounds were prepared as in Ref.Ex. 17 except that in Ref.Ex. 18, 4-(2'-acryloyloxyethyloxy)benzoic acid (from Ref.Ex. 8) (4 grams; 0.02 mole) was substituted for the 4-(6'-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoic acid; in Ref.Ex. 19, 4-(8'-acryloyloxyoctyloxy)benzoic acid (from Ref.Ex. 10) (6 grams; 0.02 mole) was substituted for the 4-(6'-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoic acid; and in Ref.Ex. 20, 4-(11'-acryloyloxyundecyloxy)benzoic acid (from Ref.Ex. 11) (4 grams; 0.02 mole) was substituted for the 4-(6'-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoic acid. The products, as confirmed by spectral analyses, were 4-[4'-(2''-acryloyloxyethyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene (Ref.Ex. 18), 4-[4'-(8''-acryloyloxyoctyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene (Ref.Ex. 19), and 4-[4'-(11''-acryloyloxyundecyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene (Ref.Ex. 20).

15 REFERENCE EXAMPLE 21

Preparation of 4-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene (Alternative Method to Ref.Ex. 7)

20 In a flame dried 250 mL one-necked round-bottomed flask, was placed 4-(6'-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoic acid (from Ref.Ex. 9) (30 grams, 0.1 mole) and oxalyl chloride (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (102 grams, 0.8 mole). The organic mixture was then treated with 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methyl phenol (available from Borg-Warner Chemicals, Inc., Parkersburg, NY) (0.3 grams, 2 mmoles) and one drop of anhydrous N,N-dimethylformamide. Gas evolution, observed immediately upon the addition of the N,N-dimethylformamide, ceased after one hour and excess oxalyl chloride was removed by reduced pressure. The residue, 4-(6'-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyl chloride, was then azeotroped with toluene (50 mL) to provide anhydrous acid chloride in quantitative yield.

The 4-(6'-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyl chloride (31 grams, 0.1 mole) in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) was then added dropwise to a solution of 4-(1',1'-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)phenol (prepared as in U.S. Patent No. 4,886,619, Example 21) (30 grams, 0.1 mole) in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) containing triethylamine (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (20 mL). Addition time of the acid chloride was 40 minutes and the reaction temperature was not allowed to rise above 10 °C during the addition. After addition was complete, the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 hours under a nitrogen atmosphere. The resulting insoluble triethylamine-hydrochloride was filtered from the reaction mixture by gravity and the filtrate was transferred into a separatory funnel. The filtrate was diluted with dichloromethane (300 mL) and the organic solution was washed one time each with 5% sodium bicarbonate, 0.5N HCl, and water in 50 mL portions. The organic layer was processed. The light yellow colored solid that remained was recrystallized from ethanol to provide greater than 99% pure desired material, as confirmed by spectral analysis. The material weighed 35 grams which represents a 85 percent yield based on starting benzoic acid.

REFERENCE EXAMPLES 22-23

45 In Ref. Ex. 22-23, compounds were prepared as in Ref.Ex. 21 except that in Ref.Ex. 22, 4-(1',1'-dihydroperfluoroethyloxy)phenol (prepared as in U.S. Patent No. 4,886,619, Example 21) (8 grams, 40 mmoles) was substituted for the 4-(1',1'-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)phenol; and in Ref.Ex. 23, 4-(1',1'-dihydroperfluorooctyloxy)phenol (prepared as in U.S. Patent No. 4,886,619, Example 21) (2 grams, 4 mmoles) was substituted for the 4-(1',1'-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)phenol. The products, as confirmed by spectral analysis, were 4-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluoroethyloxy)benzene (Ref.Ex. 22) and 4-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorooctyloxy)benzene (Ref.Ex. 23).

REFERENCE EXAMPLE 24

55 Preparation of 4-[4'-(3''-methacryloyloxypropyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene

In a 250 mL one-necked round-bottomed flask, was placed 4-(3'-methacryloyloxypropyloxy)benzoic acid (from Ref.Ex. 15) (14 grams, 0.06 mole) and thionyl chloride (available from Aldrich Chemical Co.,

Milwaukee, WI) (89 grams, 0.7 mole). The organic mixture was then treated with a catalytic amount of 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol (available from Borg-Warner Chemicals, Inc., Parkersburg, NY) and two drops of anhydrous N,N-dimethylformamide. Gas evolution was observed immediately upon addition of N,N-dimethylformamide and continued for 30 minutes. Excess thionyl chloride was removed using reduced pressure followed by high vacuum (vacuum pump). Residual 4-(3'-methacryloyloxypropyloxy)benzoyl chloride (17 grams, 0.06 mole) was dissolved in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (50 mL) and added dropwise to a solution of 4-(1',1'-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)phenol (prepared as in U.S. Patent No. 4,886,619, Example 21) (16 grams, 0.06 mole) in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (50 mL) containing triethylamine (15 mL). The reaction temperature was not allowed to rise above 10°C during addition of the acid chloride. After addition was complete, the reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 4 hours under a nitrogen atmosphere. Tetrahydrofuran was removed from the reaction medium by use of a rotary evaporator and the residue was dissolved in dichloromethane (100 mL). The organic solution was poured into a separatory funnel and was washed three times with water (25 mL). The organic layer was processed. The residue was purified utilizing a Waters Prep LC System 500A instrument employing a toluene eluant. A pure sample weighed 19 grams which represents a 64 percent yield was obtained. Identity of the product was confirmed by spectral analysis.

REFERENCE EXAMPLE 25

Preparation of 4-[4'-(6''-methacryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene

In a 500 mL one-necked round-bottomed flask was charged 4-(6'-methacryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoic acid (from Ref.Ex. 16) (10 grams, 0.03 mole) and 4-(1',1'-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)phenol (prepared as in U.S. Patent No. 4,886,619, Example 21) (20 grams, 0.03 mole). The mixture was then dissolved in a solvent system of (4:1) dichloromethane/tetrahydrofuran (125 mL). The resulting solution was treated with N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (7 grams, 0.03 mole), and N,N'-dimethylaminopyridine (available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (0.6 grams, 5 mmoles). The reaction mixture was stirred under a nitrogen atmosphere at room temperature for 12 hours. Insoluble organic matter was removed from the reaction mixture by gravity filtration and the filtrate was concentrated by a rotary evaporator to leave a white solid residue. The residue was dissolved in dichloromethane (50 mL) and poured into a separatory funnel. The organic solution was washed with 75 mL portions of 0.5N HCl, 5% sodium bicarbonate, water, and finally saturated brine. The organic layer was processed. The solid residue was recrystallized from hot ethanol (200 mL) to leave 9 grams of pure compound. Identity of the compound was confirmed by spectral analysis.

EXAMPLE 26-44

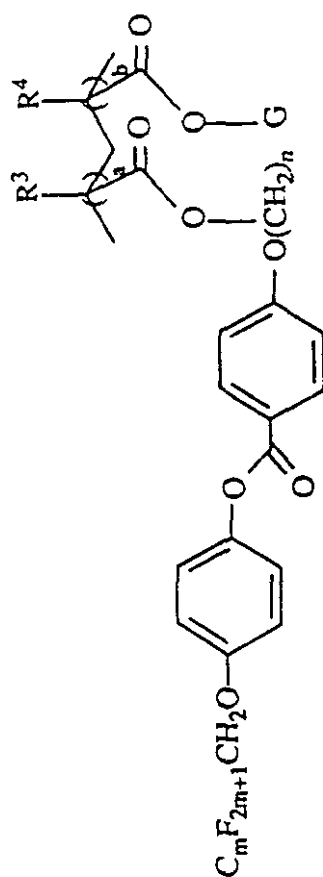
Preparation of Fluorinated Liquid Crystalline Homopolymers and Copolymers

The monomers described in Ref. Ex. 17-25 were subjected to free-radical homo- and copolymerization reactions in an isotropic solution by the following general procedure:

A glass polymerization vessel was charged with desired fluorinated monomer and dissolved in either tetrahydrofuran, ethyl acetate, benzene, or toluene to provide a 20% solids solution. A free-radical initiator, such as AIBN, was added in a 1 mole percent ratio (with respect to monomer) and the solution was purged to remove air with an inert gas such as nitrogen for 5 minutes. The polymerization vessel was sealed and immersed in a thermostatically controlled environment (65°C) for 24-48 hours to effect polymerization. The polymerization solvent was removed by a rotary evaporator and the residual polymer was dissolved in a minimum amount of dichloromethane. The polymer was then precipitated in cold methanol. The precipitated polymer was collected by decantation of the methanol and redissolved in dichloromethane and reprecipitated in a fresh amount of methanol. This procedure was repeated until no monomer was detected by thin layer chromatography. The polymer was then dried at room temperature in a high vacuum oven until a constant weight was achieved. The polymers were subjected to nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometry to confirm structure and copolymer ratios, gel permeation chromatography (GPC) to determine molecular weights, differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) to determine glass transition temperatures (T_g) and melt transition temperatures (T_m), and optical polarization microscopy to determine liquid crystalline mesophases.

Results of the investigations with respect to the present invention are summarized in Table 1, below.

Table 1
Side-Chain Liquid Crystalline Fluoropolymers



Ex.	monomer mole ratio (a : b)	R ³	R ⁴	n	m	G	Mn	Mw	Mw/Mn	T _g (°C)	T _m (°C)	LC†
26	100 : 0	Me	-	3	3	-	51,800	390,700	7.7	nd	142	Sm
27	90 : 10	Me	Me	3	3	Me	64,500	290,000	4.5	70	126	SmG
28	75 : 25	Me	Me	3	3	Me	3,400	145,000	4.2	nd	75,89	Sm
29	95 : 5	Me	Me	3	3	Me	32,600	169,000	5.1	nd	145	Sm
30	75 : 25	Me	Me	3	3	C ₁ H ₂₅	32,900	158,000	4.8	nd	89	Sm
31	*100 : 0	H	-	6	3	-	26,000	49,200	1.9	40	143	SmG
32	**100 : 0	H	-	6	3	-	15,200	23,500	1.5	40	135	SmG
33	***100 : 0	H	-	6	3	-	6,990	8,470	1.2	37	113	SmG
34	50 : 50	H	H	6	3	(CH ₂) ₆ OPhCO ₂ PhCN	11,700	18,000	1.5	nd	103,111	SmA, SmG

Table 1 (Continued)
Side-Chain Liquid Crystalline Fluoropolymers

Ex.	monomer mole ratio (a : b)	R ³	R ⁴	n	m	G	Mn	Mw	Mw/Mn	T _g (°C)	T _m (°C)	LC†
35	50 : 50	H	H	6	3	(CH ₂) ₆ OPhPhCN	14,200	23,330	1.6	35	125	SmA
36	90 : 10	H	Me	6	3	Me	nd	nd	nd	34	111,123	SmG
37	85 : 15	H	Me	6	3	C ₁₂ H ₂₅	nd	nd	nd	24	106	K
38	50 : 50	H	Me	6	3	(CH ₂) ₃ OPhCO ₂ PhOCH ₂ C ₃ F ₇	33,900	69,900	2.0	56	125,135	K
39	100 : 0	H	-	8	3	-	nd	nd	nd	23	102	Sm
40	50 : 50	H	H	8	3	(CH ₂) ₆ OPhCO ₂ PhCN	13,000	22,400	1.7	5	66	SmA
41	50 : 50	H	H	8	3	(CH ₂) ₆ OPhPhCN	13,900	22,800	1.7	15	103	SmA
42	100 : 0	H	-	11	3	-	nd	nd	nd	nd	45,64,87	SmG
43	50 : 50	H	H	11	3	(CH ₂) ₆ OPhPhCN	14,400	24,900	1.7	14	100	SmA
44	50 : 50	H	H	11	3	(CH ₂) ₆ OPhCO ₂ PhCN	13,100	22,800	1.7	nd	100	SmA

All polymerizations performed using AIBN at 65°C for 24 hours

* ethyl acetate; ** toluene; *** tetrahydrofuran; † liquid crystalline mesophase;

Me = methyl; Ph = phenyl

Mn = number average molecular weight

Mw = weight average molecular weight

Tg = glass transition temperature; Tm = melting transition temperature

K = crystalline, Sm = smectic, nd = not determined, SmA = smectic A, SmG = smectic G,

AIBN = azobis(isobutyronitrile)

R³ and R⁴ are each defined the same as R (previously defined)

G is a group (-X-Y-Z) contributed by a comonomer (which does not interfere with liquid crystalline properties of the copolymer; preferably G is an aliphatic or aromatic group which can contain N, S, or nonperoxidic O atoms).

EXAMPLE 45

Preparation of a poled waveguide cell comprising liquid crystalline fluorinated polymer of the invention

5 Poly-4-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-(1''',1'''-dihydroperfluorobutyloxy)benzene-co-4-[4'-(6''-acryloyloxyhexyloxy)benzoyloxy]-1-cyanobenzene (from Example 34) was placed in a vacuum oven and kept above its melting transition temperature T_m , (140 °C), for eight hours to ensure the polymer was free from bubbles. A sample of the polymeric melt was then spread between two electrically conductive glass plates having an indium-tin oxide (ITO) electrode pattern on them (available from Donnelly Corporation;
10 Holland, MI). The polymer was heated above T_m within a heated Carver™ hydraulic press set to 690 kPa (100 psi), which compressed the sample into a thin film with thickness less than 5 micrometers. After 30 minutes, the assembly was cooled to room temperature.

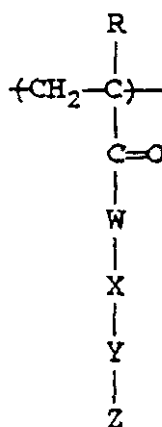
An electrical wire was attached to each of the glass plates using indium solder, and the periphery of the assembly was sealed with Pronto™ epoxy glue (3M, St. Paul, MN). The poling cell was placed in an optical
15 microscope hot stage and observed with a Zeiss™ polarizing microscope (Carl Zeiss Inc.; Thornwood, NY). The lead wires were connected to an AC HP 6827A™ voltage amplifier (Hewlett-Packard Inc.; Palo Alto, CA), which amplified the AC voltage signal from a Wavetek™ 130 signal generator (Wavetek Instruments; San Diego, CA).

The poling cell was first heated to 120 °C to bring the liquid crystal into its isotropic phase. The cell was
20 then cooled slowly at a rate of 1 °C/min. while an AC field of 80 volts at 1000 Hertz was applied on the ITO areas. In the areas where the ITO patterns crossed, the mesomorphic side-chain polymer units aligned parallel to the electrical field (homeotropic alignment) and appeared transparent. The areas where no field was applied were randomly oriented and scattered light. When the poling cell was removed from the hot stage, the aligned liquid crystalline polymer remained transparent for more than one year without any
25 degradation. A light-scattering loss of about 3 dB/cm was measured for this cell assembly.

Various modifications and alterations of this invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of this invention, and it should be understood that this invention is not to be unduly limited to the illustrative embodiments set forth herein.

Claims

1. A polymer having units of the formula



wherein

R is hydrogen, halo, a C_1 to C_4 alkyl or haloalkyl group, or a C_6 to C_{10} aryl group,

W is -O- or -NR'- wherein R' is hydrogen or a C_1 to C_4 alkyl group,

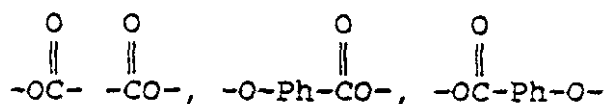
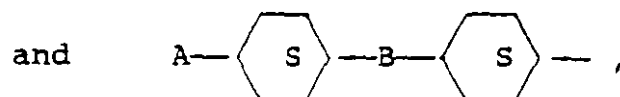
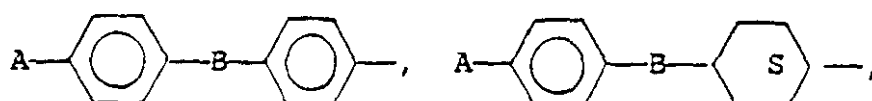
X is a carbon-to-carbon single bond or a spacer group,

Y is a mesogenic group, and

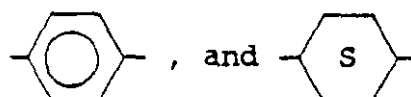
55 Z has the formula -O-CH₂-C_mF_{2m+1}, wherein m is an integer of 1 to 12, and wherein said polymer is a liquid crystal.

2. A polymer according to claim 1 which exhibits a smectic mesophase.

3. A polymer according to either of claims 1 and 2 which is a homopolymer having 20 to 600 units.
4. A polymer according to any one of claims 1 to 3 which is a copolymer having units derived from any compatible ethylenically-unsaturated monomer by polymerization therewith, the ratio of monomers being in the range of 0.1:99.9 to 99.9:0.1.
5. The polymer according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched aliphatic and fluoroaliphatic groups having 2 to 20 carbon atoms which optionally comprise at least one of nonperoxidic oxygen and sulfur atoms, and which optionally are substituted by C₁ to C₄ alkoxy groups.
6. The polymer according to any of claims 1 to 5 wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of

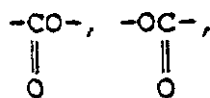


wherein A is -O-, or -S-, wherein Ph is



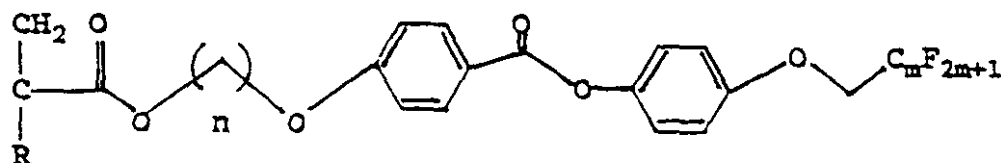
is a saturated ring structure,

B is a carbon-to-carbon covalent bond,



-CH=CH-, -N=N-, -N=CH-, -CH=N-, or -C≡C-.

7. The polymer according to any of claims 1 to 6 having units of the formula



wherein

R is hydrogen, methyl, chloro, fluoro, or trifluoromethyl,

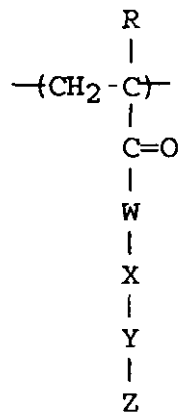
n is an integer 2 to 12, and

m is an integer 1 to 12.

8. The polymer according to any of claims 1 to 7 which is utilized in a guide medium, a display medium, an imaging medium, and an optical storage medium.
9. A method comprising the steps of reacting a 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoic acid, a 4-(omega-methacryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoic acid, a 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoyl halide, or a 4-(omega-methacryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoyl halide with a fluorinated phenol to provide a fluorinated liquid crystalline monomer polymerizing said monomer in the presence of activating energy and a free radical generating initiator, and optionally in the presence of a compatible ethylenically-unsaturated comonomer to provide the polymer according to any of claims 1 to 8.
10. The method according to claim 9 wherein said comonomer is selected from the group consisting of acrylates and methacrylates, styrenes, acrylamides and methacrylamides, vinyl monomers, and allyl monomers.
11. The method according to claims 9 or 10 further comprising the step of reacting a 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzaldehyde or a 4-(omega-methacryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzaldehyde with a mild oxidizing agent which is inert to the polymerization process to provide said 4-(omega-acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoic acid or said 4-(omega-methacryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoic acid.

Patentansprüche

1. Polymer mit Einheiten der Formel:



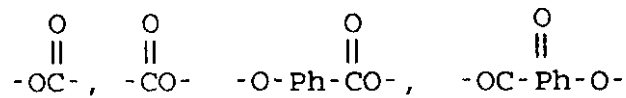
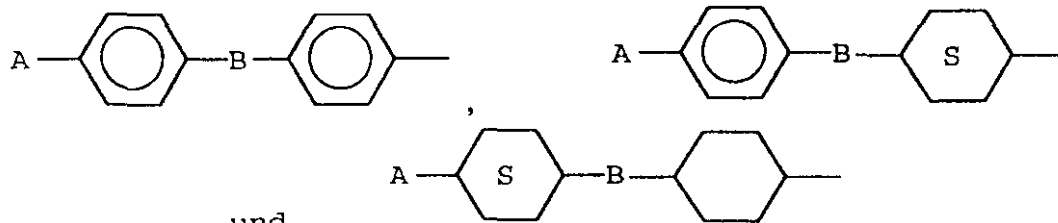
worin sind:

- R Wasserstoff, Halogen, eine C_{1...4}-Alkyl- oder eine Halogenalkyl-Gruppe oder eine C_{6...10}-Aryl-Gruppe,
W -O- oder -NR¹-, worin R¹ Wasserstoff oder eine C_{1...4}-Alkyl-Gruppe ist,
X eine Kohlenstoff-Kohlenstoff-Einfachbindung oder eine Spacer-Gruppe
Z hat die Formel -O-CH₂-C_mF_{2m+1}, worin m eine ganze Zahl von 1 bis 12 ist; und
welches Polymer ein Flüssigkristall ist.

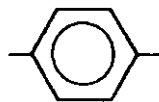
2. Polymer nach Anspruch 1 mit einer smektische Mesophase.
3. Polymer nach Anspruch 1 und 2, das ein Homopolymer mit 20 ... 600 Einheiten ist.
4. Polymer nach Anspruch 1 bis 3, welches ein Copolymer mit Einheiten ist, die von einem beliebigen kompatiblen, ethylenisch ungesättigten Monomer durch Polymerisation damit deriviert werden, wobei das Verhältnis der Monomer im Bereich von 0,1:99,9 ... 99,9:0,1 liegt.
5. Polymer nach Anspruch 1 bis 4, bei welchem X ausgewählt wird aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus linearen oder verzweigten aliphatischen und fluoraliphatischen Gruppen mit 2 bis 20 Kohlenstoffatomen,

die wahlweise mindestens ein nichtperoxidisches Sauerstoff- und Schwefelatom aufweisen und die wahlweise durch C₁₋₄-Alkoxy-Gruppen substituiert sind.

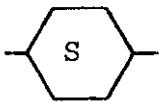
6. Polymer nach Anspruch 1 bis 5, bei welchem Y ausgewählt wird aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus:



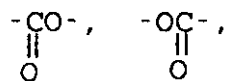
worin A: -O-, oder -S-ist und worin Ph



ist und

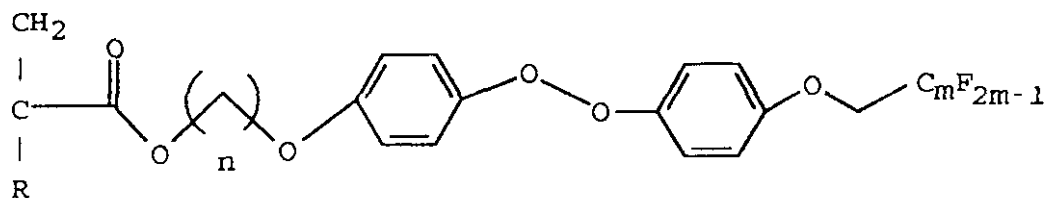


eine gesättigte Ringstruktur; und worin B eine kovalente Kohlenstoff-Kohlenstoff-Bindung,



-CH=CH-, -N=N-, -N=CH-, -CH=N- oder -C≡C- ist.

7. Polymer nach Anspruch 1 bis 6 mit Einheiten der Formel:



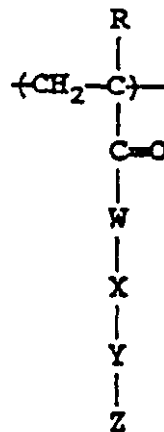
worin sind:

- R Wasserstoff, Methyl, Chlor, Fluor oder Trifluormethyl;
 n eine ganze Zahl von 2 bis 12 sowie
 m eine ganze Zahl von 1 bis 12.

8. Polymer nach Anspruch 1 bis 7, welches eingesetzt wird in einem Führungsmedium, Displaymedium, bilderzeugenden Medium und optischen Speichermedium.
9. Verfahren zur Schaffung des Polymers nach Anspruch 1 bis 8, umfassend die Schritte:
- 5 Umsetzen einer 4-(omega-Acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoesäure, einer 4-(omega-Methacryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoesäure, eines 4-(omega-Acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoylhalogenids oder eines 4-(omega-Methacryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoylhalogenids mit einem fluorierten, flüssigkristallinen Monomer; und
- 10 Polymerisieren des Monomers in Gegenwart von Aktivierungsenergie und eines Initiators zum Radikalerzeugen sowie wahlweise in Gegenwart eines kompatiblen, ethylenisch ungesättigten Comonomers.
10. Verfahren nach Anspruch 9, bei welchem das Comonomer ausgewählt wird aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus Acrylaten, Methacrylaten, Styrolen, Acrylamiden und Methacrylamiden, Vinyl-Monomeren und Allyl-Monomeren.
- 15 11. Verfahren nach Anspruch 9 oder 10, ferner umfassend den Schritt des Umsetzens eines 4-(omega-Acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzaldehyds oder eines 4-(omega-Methacryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzaldehyds mit einem milden Oxidationsmittel, welches gegenüber dem Polymerisationsprozeß inert ist, um die 4-(omega-Acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoesäure oder die 4-(omega-Methacryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoesäure zu schaffen.
- 20

Revendications

1. Polymère ayant des unités de la formule
- 25



dans laquelle

R est un groupe hydrogène, halo, alkyle ou haloalkyle en C₁ à C₄, ou un groupe aryle en C₆ à C₁₀,

W est -O- ou -NR¹-, où R¹ est l'hydrogène ou un groupe alkyle en C₁ à C₄,

X est une liaison simple carbone-carbone ou un groupe d'espacement,

Y est un groupe mésogénique, et

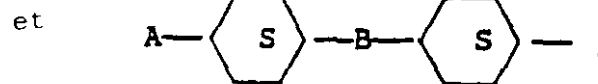
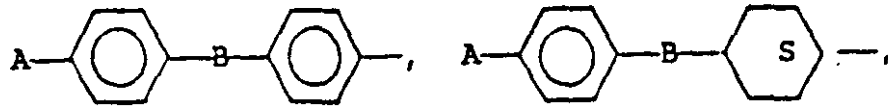
Z a la formule -O-CH-C_mF_{2m+1}, où m est un entier de 1 à 12, et dans laquelle ledit polymère est un cristal liquide.

45

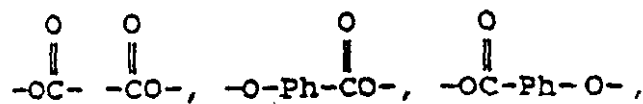
2. Polymère selon la revendication 1, qui présente une mésophase smectique.
- 50 3. Polymère selon la revendication 1 ou la revendication 2, qui est un homopolymère ayant de 20 à 600 unités.
4. Polymère selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, qui est un copolymère ayant des unités dérivées d'un quelconque monomère compatible, éthyléniquement insaturé, par polymérisation avec celui-ci, le rapport des monomères étant compris dans le domaine de 0,1:99,9 à 99,9:0,1.
- 55

5. Polymère selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, dans lequel X est choisi dans le groupe constitué de groupes aliphatiques ou fluoroaliphatiques linéaires ou ramifiés ayant 2 à 20 atomes de carbone, qui comprennent en option au moins l'un des atomes oxygène non-peroxydique et soufre, et qui, en option, sont substitués par des groupes alcoxy en C₁ à C₄.

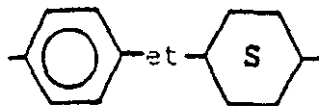
6. Polymère selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5, dans lequel Y est choisi dans le groupe constitué de



dans lequel A est -O-,



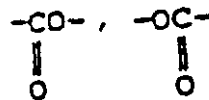
ou -S-, où Ph est



est une

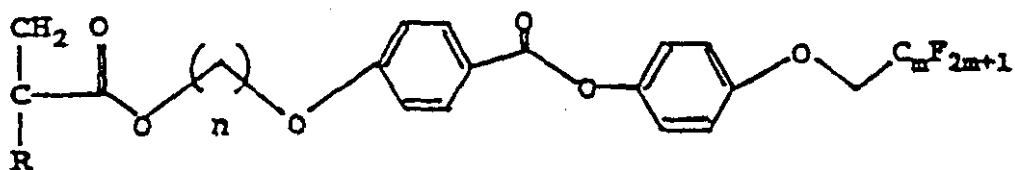
structure annulaire saturée,

B est une liaison covalente carbone-carbone,



-CH=CH-, -N=N-, -N=CH-, -CH=N-, ou -C≡C-.

7. Polymère selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 6, ayant des unités de la formule



dans laquelle

R est hydrogène, méthyle, chloro, fluoro ou trifluorométhyle,

n est un entier de 2 à 12, et

m est un entier de 1 à 12.

- 5
8. Polymère selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 7, qui est utilisé dans un milieu de guidage, un milieu d'affichage, un milieu de formation d'image, et un milieu de stockage optique.
- 10
9. Procédé comprenant les étapes consistant à faire réagir un acide 4-(oméga-acryloyloxyalkyloxy)-benzoïque, un acide 4-(oméga-méthacryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoïque, un halogénure 4-(oméga-acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoïque, ou un halogénure 4-(oméga-méthacryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoïque avec un phénol fluoré, pour fournir un monomère cristallisé liquide fluoré polymérisant ledit monomère en présence d'énergie d'activation et d'un initiateur générant un radical libre, et en option, en présence d'un comonomère compatible éthyléniquement insaturé, pour fournir le polymère selon l'une quelconque
- 15
- des revendications 1 à 8.
10. Procédé selon la revendication 9, dans lequel ledit comonomère est choisi dans le groupe constitué d'acrylates et de méthacrylates, de styrènes, d'acrylamides et de méthacrylamides, de monomères de vinyle et de monomères d'allyle.
- 20
11. Procédé selon la revendication 9 ou 10, comprenant de plus l'étape consistant à faire réagir un 4-(oméga-acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzaldéhyde ou un 4-(oméga-méthacryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzaldéhyde avec un agent d'oxydation doux qui est inerte vis-à-vis du processus de polymérisation, pour fournir ledit acide 4-(oméga-acryloyloxyalkyloxy)benzoïque ou ledit acide 4-(oméga-méthacryloyloxyalkyloxy)-benzoïque.
- 25
- 30
- 35
- 40
- 45
- 50
- 55