Induced Smectic Phases

II. Influence of the Amino Substituent on the Induction of Smectic Phases *

F. Schneider and N. K. Sharma **
Physikalische Chemie, Universität Siegen

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The diagrams of state have been studied for some liquid crystal mixtures which show the induction of smectic phases. Each of the systems studied contains one component with an amino group which influences the polarity and the electron donor property of the molecules. The discussion of the diagrams of state, of the thickness of the smectic layers and of the colours of the mixtures, which indicate the formation of CT complexes, shows that existing models can not explain the induction of smectic phases.

Introduction

The formation of induced smectic phases in mixtures of nematic liquid crystals is a well known phenomenon. Many models have been proposed in order to explain this phenomenon. However, a complete explanation of the induction of smectic phases is still missing. Even no definite criterion for the appearance of this effect has been presented up to now. At present, the best criterion is the classification scheme proposed by Engelen et al. [1]. According to this classification scheme liquid crystals are divided into terminal polar (P) and terminal non-polar (N) compounds. Mixtures of the type PN are supposed to form induced smectic phases, whereas mixtures of the types PP and NN should show no enhancement of the thermal stability of smectic phases. This rule is obeyed by a large number of systems but some exceptions are known [2].

According to the CT interaction model of Park et al. [3], the formation of induced smectic phases is caused by a CT interaction between electron donor and acceptor molecules. This model is supported by the recent observation of CT bands in the absorption spectra of induced smectic phases. Thus, mixtures of dimethylaniline and nitro substituted benzilidene-anilines [4, 5], as well as 4,4'-bis-[alkylamino]-biphenyls in mixtures with liquid crystals containing NO₂ and CN substituents [6, 7] form coloured CT complexes and show the induction of smectic or nematic phases.

For all of the mixtures investigated up to now, e.g. the system 4-n-pentyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl/4-methoxybenzilidene-4'-n-butylaniline [3, 8], the PN rule as well as the donator acceptor (DA) model predict the same behaviour since the polar terminal groups used (CN and NO₂) lead to electron acceptor molecules. Therefore, the investigation of mixtures, for which the two rules predict a different behaviour with respect to the induction of smectic phases, is important. For this purpose liquid crystals containing an amino group are interesting, because the unsubstituted amino group is a polar terminal group, which favours the electron donor behaviour of a molecule. The induction of smectic phases in systems containing alkylamino substituted compounds can be compared with the induction of the analogous alkyloxy compounds which show weaker electron donor behaviour.

This paper reports on the diagrams of state of mixtures of 4,4'-bis-[n-hexylamino]-biphenyl, 4-n-octylamino-4'-cyanobiphenyl and 4-n-octyl-4'-amino-biphenyl with other liquid crystals. X-ray studies give information on the thickness of the smectic layers. Colour changes, which may be attributed to CT complex formation, are reported.

Experimental

Details of the experimental method for the determination of the diagrams of state and the X-ray
patterns are described in an earlier paper [9]. The colours of the mixtures were determined with the unaided eye. Measurements with an UV spectrophotometer showed that a precise determination of the absorption maxima is not possible, as the extinction coefficients are very small and the absorption is superimposed by the absorption edges of the pure components, especially for 8ACBP and 110NPB.

The following liquid crystals were used in this investigation:

- 4-n-octylamino-4'-cyanobiphenyl (8ACBP)
- 4-n-octyloxy-4'-cyanobiphenyl (80CBP)
- 4-n-octyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl (8CBP)
- 4-n-octyl-4'-aminobiphenyl (8ABP)
- 4,4'-bis-[n-hexylamino]-biphenyl (6A6ABP)
- 4-n-undecyloxy-[4-nitrophenyl]-benzoate (110NPB)
- 4-n-decyloxy-[4-n-hexyloxyphenyl]-benzoate (10060PB)

8ACBP and 9ACBP were generously provided by Dr. M. Osman (Brown Boveri & Co, Switzerland). The other liquid crystals were either purchased from BDH (8CBP and 80CBP) or synthesized in our laboratory (6A6ABP, 110NPB and 10060PB). 8ABP was synthesized from 8CBP by a procedure reported by MacMillan and Labes [10] for the corresponding compound 5ABP. Properties of 8ABP: Melting point 76 °C; 1H NMR in CDCl₃ (ppm from TMS) 0.9 (3H, triplet), 1.4 (12H, multiplet), 2.6 (2H, triplet), 3.6 (2H, singlet), 6.7 – 7.6 (8H, multiplet); MS m/e 281 (80), 182 (100). 8ABP exhibits mesomorphic behaviour only in mixtures with other liquid crystals.

Results and Discussion

At first the diagrams of state of 8ABP with other liquid crystals will be discussed. The induction of smectic phases by this component is of special interest, as it possesses a polar terminal group and exhibits electron donor properties. According to the PN classification, the system 8ABP/10060PB should exhibit an induced smectic phase. However, Fig. 1 shows that the transition temperatures of the SA and SC phase of 10060PB are strongly depressed by the addition of 8ABP. One might assume that this depression is due to the low lying transition temperatures in the pure 8ABP and that the phase boundaries are therefore strongly inclined. But the appearance of a second SA phase, which is separated from the SA phase of 10060PB by a solid phase, shows that this argument is not valid. Furthermore, 8ABP does induce a smectic phase in mixtures with 80CBP as shown in Figure 2. According to the DA model, both the components of the system 8ABP/10060PB are donors and therefore no induction of a smectic phase is expected.

The system 8ABP/80CBP (Fig. 2) exhibits the formation of a solid phase, which may be attributed to a donor acceptor interaction. The SA phase range of 80CBP is also increased in the medium concentration range. This example, too, agrees with the DA model and disagrees with the PN rule. A similar behaviour is observed, if 80CBP is exchanged by 8CBP (see Table 1). On mixing
8ABP with 10010PB, 8ABP with 80CBP or 8ABP with 8CBP no colour changes could be detected.

The second liquid crystal investigated by us is 8ACBP, which contains a terminal CN group (acceptor group) and an alkyl substituted amino group (donor group). The diagram of state of the system 8ACBP/10060PB (Fig. 3) shows in the region of medium concentrations the induction of a smectic phase which can be classified as an \( S_A \) phase by its uninterrupted miscibility with the \( S_A \) phase of 10060PB. The PN classification predicts the formation of an induced smectic phase. However, there are difficulties to classify 8ACBP as donor or acceptor. If the DA model is valid, 8ACBP should behave as acceptor. The thermal stability of the induced smectic phase should therefore be much smaller than in a system in which the amino group is exchanged against an oxygen atom, for example. The corresponding system 80CBP/10060PB [8] shows an \( S_A \) phase with a maximum transition temperature which is 19.7 °C higher than the arithmetical mean of the clearing point temperatures of the pure components. In the system 8ACBP/10060PB the corresponding difference of 13.2 °C is in fact smaller, but it has to be taken into account that, in contrast to 80CBP, the pure 8ACBP as well as the eutectic mixture with 9ACBP do not exhibit an \( S_A \) phase, even not on undercooling. We therefore conclude that the insertion of an electron donor group into an acceptor molecule has only a small or no influence on the induction of smectic phases in mixtures with donor molecules in contrast to the prediction of the DA model.

Figures 4 and 5 show the diagrams of state of 8ACBP in mixtures with 80CBP and 110NPB, which exhibit no induction of smectic phases. As these mixtures are of PP type and AA type, resp., the absence of induced smectic phases in the two diagrams agrees with both rules. In the system 8ACBP/110NPB the formation of a CT complex is indicated by the observation of a brown colour in a 50\% mixture. This complex formation without any induction of a smectic phase disagrees with the DA model.

The third liquid crystal investigated by us is 6A6ABP, which exhibits strong electron donor properties. This liquid crystal forms coloured CT complexes with a series of liquid crystals containing \( \text{NO}_2 \) and CN groups [6, 7]. Both rules lead to the same prediction for mixtures of 6A6ABP: no induc-
tion of smectic phases with 10060PB (Fig. 6) and an induction with 80CBP (Fig. 7) and 8ACBP (Figure 8). In both cases smectic B and especially smectic E phases of high thermal stability are formed. A classification of the smectic phases by the uninterrupted miscibility with the pure components is not possible, as the pure liquid crystals do not exhibit smectic phases of these types. The observation of lancet textures indicates the formation of \( S_B \) and \( S_E \) phases, resp. A further confirmation was obtained by X-ray studies, which yielded the characteristic X-ray patterns of the \( S_E \) and \( S_B \) phase in these two systems. The thickness of the smectic layers of a 50 mole\(^\%\) mixture of 6A6ABP and 8ACBP amounts to 2.55 nm and corresponds to the thickness of a monolayer as calculated from the mean value of the molecular lengths (2.58 nm) measured on Dreiding models.

As in the systems 8ACBP/10060PB and 80CBP/10060PB, a comparison of the thermal stability of the systems 6A6ABP/8ACBP and 6A6ABP/80CBP, in which the clearing point temperatures are increased by 32.3 and 40.1 °C, resp., shows the small influence of a change in the acceptor strength. At least in the system 6A6ABP/80CBP the formation of a CT complex could be established by the observation of a colour change to yellow when the two liquid crystals are mixed.

The properties of the systems investigated by us and their classification by the two models are summarized in Table 1. Furthermore, Table 1 contains a third classification with respect to the mono or bilayer formation in the pure liquid crystals. In order to determine the layer type of 8ACBP, an X-ray investigation of this component was undertaken. The pure 8ACBP, however, does not show X-ray reflections for the smectic short range order, because this liquid crystal shows only a very small nematic phase range. Therefore at 50 mole\(^\%\) 8ACBP/9ACBP mixture, which has a broader nematic phase range, was studied at 63 °C. This mixture shows a bilayer short range order, since the layer thickness of 3.28 nm is greater than...
Table 1. Properties and classification of the investigated systems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>Fig.</th>
<th>Type of induced phase</th>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>PN classification</th>
<th>DA classification</th>
<th>MB classification</th>
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<tr>
<td>8ABP/10060PB</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>PN</td>
<td>DD</td>
<td>M</td>
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<tr>
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<td>S_A</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>PP</td>
<td>DA</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8ACBP/10060PB</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>brown</td>
<td>PN</td>
<td>?D</td>
<td>BM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8ACBP/110NPB</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>brown</td>
<td>PP</td>
<td>?A</td>
<td>BB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6A6ABP/10060PB</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NN</td>
<td>DD</td>
<td>MM **</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>S_B, S_E</td>
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<td>NP</td>
<td>DA</td>
<td>MB</td>
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<tr>
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<td>S_B, S_E</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>D?</td>
<td>MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6A6ABP/110NPB</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>S_A</td>
<td>brown</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>DA</td>
<td>MB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* M and B stand for mono and bilayer, resp.
** The formation of monolayers in the higher homologues of 6A6ABP has been proved by Walther [11].

the mean molecular length of 2.45 nm which was determined with Dreiding models. The layer type of 8ABP could not be determined as the pure component does not show liquid crystalline properties.

The MB classification is very similar to the PN classification as only liquid crystals of P type exhibit bilayers. Table 1 shows that the rule — MB mixtures exhibit induced smectic phases and MM as well as BB mixtures do not — is valid if 8ABP is assumed to be of the monolayer type. This rule is obeyed by nearly all systems studied up to now. Only Domon and Billard [2] report on some systems which seem to violate this rule.

From the foregoing discussion the untouched question remains in which cases mono or bilayers are formed. In general, it is assumed that the bilayer formation is due to the strong dipole moments of P type exhibit bilayers. Table 1 shows that the rule — MB mixtures exhibit induced smectic phases and MM as well as BB mixtures do not — is valid if 8ABP is assumed to be of the monolayer type. This rule is obeyed by nearly all systems studied up to now. Only Domon and Billard [2] report on some systems which seem to violate this rule.

A second problem is the prediction of the induction of smectic phases in mixtures of liquid crystals where one component contains a weak polar terminal substituents, as for instance the Cl substituent. In some cases induced smectic phases with a medium thermal stability are formed [13] but in other cases no induction or even the appearance of a minimum transition temperature nematic—smectic is observed [2]. We think that in these cases specific intermolecular interactions or volume effects [14] are important which can lead to small deviations from the linear course of the phase boundaries. Therefore, the designation induced smectic should only be used for mixtures in which the maximum transition temperature nematic—smectic is some ten degrees higher than the corresponding transition temperatures of the pure components.

Despite of this restriction there are still systems which do not obey the MB rule. Probably, none of these rules will explain all cases of induced smectic phases without additional assumptions. We think that all effects discussed have to be taken into account and the contributions of the dipole interaction, CT interaction, volume effects and other specific interactions will depend on the particular system.

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