Synthesis and Mesomorphic Properties
of New Liquid Crystalline Cyclohexyl-phenyl- and Dicyclohexyl-pyrimidines

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Liquid Crystals, Cyclohexyl-phenyl-pyrimidines, Dicyclohexyl-pyrimidines

The synthesis and mesomorphic properties of three new classes of cyano-substituted cyclohexyl-phenyl- and dicyclohexyl-pyrimidines are reported. The compounds are colourless, chemically and photochemically stable and have wide nematic mesophases. The thermal compatibility of the new compounds with other nematic liquid crystals is excellent. The large static positive dielectric anisotropics are shown to depend strongly on the position and number of hydrogenated rings as well as on the alkyl chain lengths within a homologous series. The reported bulk viscosities vary considerably among homologues. Hydrogenating the ring adjacent to the cyano end group causes \( \eta \) to increase, whereas a considerable viscosity reduction compared to nonhydrogenated homologues was found by hydrogenating the ring adjacent to the alkyl end group. The measured refractive indices of the new compounds are comparable to those of biphenyls.

The use of 2,5-disubstituted pyrimidine rings as a structural element in liquid crystals is well known. Mono- and disubstituted diphenyl pyrimidines have been studied mainly by Schubert et al. [1] and various phenyl pyrimidines have been prepared by Zaschke [2].

We have shown that in cyano-alkylphenyl- and alkyl-cyanophenyl-pyrimidines [3] as well as in diphenyl- and biphenylpyrimidines [4] the relative position of the permanent dipole moments of the pyrimidine and the cyano group is very important in determining the size of the dielectric constants and the mesomorphic properties. A large positive dielectric anisotropy is obtained if the contributions are additive and in this case the tendency of forming smectic mesophases is least (Type 6).

In the meantime the use of colourless liquid crystalline compounds and mixtures with lower viscosities and increased UV-stability has become more and more important. Both goals are achieved replacing \( p \)-disubstituted benzene rings by trans-1,4-cyclohexylene rings. Representatives with positive dielectric anisotropy are for example the trans-phenyl-, trans-diphenyl- and trans-biphenyl-cyclohexanes (1–3) [5] and the cyanophenyl cyclohexane-carboxylates (4) [6].

In general compounds with the cyano group attached to the cyclohexane ring show thermally

\[
\begin{align*}
1 & \quad R = n\text{-alkyl}; m = 12 \\
2 & \quad R = \text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n-6}\text{H}_2 \text{CN} \\
3 & \quad R = \text{COO}^- \text{CN} \\
4 & \quad R = \text{COO}^- \text{CN} \\
5 & \quad R = \text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n-6}\text{H}_2 \text{CN} \\
6 & \quad R = \text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n-6}\text{H}_2 \text{CN} \\
7 & \quad R = \text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n-6}\text{H}_2 \text{CN} \\
8 & \quad R = \text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n-6}\text{H}_2 \text{CN} \\
9 & \quad R = \text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n-6}\text{H}_2 \text{CN}
\end{align*}
\]

Compounds of type 6 [4]* are used in commercial mixtures. We therefore synthesized the corresponding substances with hydrogenated benzene rings (classes 7, 8 and 9).

* The diphenylpyrimidines 6 are subsequently called terpyrimidines.
The syntheses are outlined in Schemes 1-3. As before [3, 4] suitably substituted amidines were used as the nitrogen containing units for the construction of the pyrimidine ring, for compounds 8 and 9 starting with methyl trans-4-cyano-cyclohexane-carboxylate. They were condensed with substituted β-alkoxy acroleins yielding the tricyclic amides which in turn were dehydrated to the corresponding nitriles.

The β-alkoxy acroleins used were described earlier [4] or were built from Juaris-4-n-alkyl cyclohexane carboxylic acids. In this case owing to slightly different reactivities of the compounds involved the conditions of the reactions and the reagents had to be modified in most instances. The colourless nitriles obtained showed in all classes pure nematic mesophases. No other transitions between melting and clearing point could be observed (Table I).

### Experimental

All compounds were recrystallized to constant melting point and identified by their mass, NMR and infrared spectra. Elemental analysis for C, H and N always gave satisfactory values. The given transition temperatures were determined microscopically in polarized light with a Mettler hot stage FP52 and a Mettler FP5 electronic recording apparatus. Transition temperatures were also measured with a Mettler TA2000 thermoanalyzer system which was used for the determination of the purity by the cryoscopic method. It was found that all compounds listed in Table I were at least 99.5% pure. Mass spectra were recorded on a MS9 (AEI, Manchester) spectrometer (ionizing voltage: 70 V; ion source temperature approx. 250 °C). For NMR spectra, a Varian EM 360 spectrometer (CDCl3, TMS) was used.

**trans-p-[5-(4-Pentyl-cyclohexyl)-2-pyrimidinyl]benzonitrile (7, R = C5H11, Scheme 1)**

A solution of 63.9 g of trans-4-pentylcyclohexane carboxylic acid [8] in 250 ml of dry ether is added dropwise to a stirred suspension of 12.2 g of lithium aluminium hydride in such a manner that there is gentle refluxing. After 1 h of stirring 80 ml of ethyl acetate and then 100 ml of water are added dropwise with caution. The reaction mixture is then poured on cool dilute hydrochloric acid (congored), the organic phase separated, washed successively with water, sodium hydrogen carbonate solution and dried. The trans-4-pentylcyclohexanecarbinol so obtained is used directly for the next step.

To a stirred suspension of 125 g of pyridinium chlorochromate [9] in 900 ml of methylene chloride is added a solution of 59.0 g of trans-4-pentylcyclohexanecarbinol in 100 ml of ether. After 2 h at
room temperature the mixture is diluted with 400 ml of ether, stirred for 15 min and decanted from a tarry precipitate (rinsed with ether). Filtration of the solution through a column of florisil and evaporation of the eluate gives trans-4-pentylcyclohexanecarboxaldehyde, used without further purification for the next step.

To a stirred suspension of 223.1 g of (methoxy-methyl)triphenylphosphonium chloride in 1,600 ml of ether are added 76.2 g of potassium tert-butylate. 45 min later a solution of 51.4 g of trans-4-pentylcyclohexanecarboxaldehyde in 300 ml of ether is added dropwise. After 2 h at room temperature the reaction mixture is poured in ice water. The organic layer is separated, washed with water and dried. The crude 2-(trans-4-pentylcyclohexyl)vinylmethyl ether is distilled at 92–96 °C/0.7 mm. 38.7 g of 2-(trans-4-pentylcyclohexyl)vinylmethyl ether are added dropwise to a solution of 13.1 g of boron trifluoride etherate in 700 ml of distilled ethyl orthoformate, cooled in an ice bath and the reaction mixture is stirred at room temperature overnight. After dilution with 1,000 ml of toluene, washing with sodium hydrogen carbonate solution and water, drying and evaporating the solvent crude trans-4-pentylcyclohexyl malonic tetraacetal is obtained.

A stirred mixture of 57.4 g of crude trans-4-pentylcyclohexyl malonic tetraacetal, 3.5 ml of water and 150 mg of p-toluene sulfonic acid is kept 3 h at 80–85 °C. After cooling 1.6 g of sodium hydrogen carbonate are added, the reaction mixture stirred for 1 1/2 h, diluted with ether, extracted 3 times with cold 3 N sodium hydroxide solution, washed with water and dried. The crude 3-ethoxy-2-(trans-4-pentylcyclohexyl)acrolein obtained after evaporation of the solvent is used immediately in the next step.

17.8 g of this 3-ethoxy-acrolein and 16.2 g of 4-amidinobenzoic acid amide hydrochloride are stirred in a solution of 4.8 g of sodium metal in 175 ml of methanol at 50 °C overnight under nitrogen. After cooling the yellow suspension is treated with 55 ml of 3 N hydrochloric acid, filtered, washed with water and dried. The crude brownish trans-p-[5-(4-pentylcyclohexyl)-2-pyrimidinyl]benzamidc is used in the next step.

A stirred suspension of 17.2 g of crude amide in 150 ml of pyridine is treated with 9.5 ml of benzene sulfochloride and kept at 55 °C for 6 h. The reaction mixture is poured on cold diluted hydrochloric acid, extracted with methylene chloride and the organic layer was washed successively with hydrochloric acid, sodium hydrogen carbonate solution and water. After drying and evaporating the solvent the crude trans-p-[5-(4-pentylcyclohexyl)-2-pyrimidinyl]benzonitrile is chromatographed on a column of 600 g of silica gel with toluene/5% acetone. The pure fractions are combined, dissolved in hexane, treated with charcoal and recrystallized from hexane (yield 11.8 g); m. p. 100.5 °C, clp. 231 °C.

UV (EtOH) \( \lambda_{\text{max}}(\varepsilon) \):
- 268 sh (31,900),
- 276 (33,300),
- 288 sh (20,500).

NMR:
- \( \delta \) 8.71 (2, s),
- 8.56 (2, d, \( J \) = 8.5 Hz),
- 2.85–2.2 (1, m),
- 2.2–0.7 (20, m),
- 7.78 (2, d, \( J \) = 8.5 Hz).

MS m/e (%):
- 333 (M+, 100),
- 304 (11),
- 290 (7),
- 271 (14),
- 223 (21),
- 207 (33),
- 194 (32),
- 128 (34).


trans-4-[5-(p-Heptylphenyl)-2-pyrimidinyl]-cyclohexanecarbonitrile (8, \( R = C_7H_{15} \), Scheme 2)

Dry hydrogen chloride is passed into a solution of 96.6 g of methyl trans-4-cyanocyclohexanecarboxy-
cooling to room temperature and removal of the ammonia the reaction mixture is evaporated, the residue suspended in ether, filtered and washed with ether. The crude trans-4-carbamoylcyclohexane-carboxamidinehydrochloride is recrystallized from methanol (yield 68.3 g).

12.6 g of crude 3-ethoxy-2-(trans-4-heptylphenyl)acrolein [4] and 9.9 g of trans-4-carbamoylcyclohexane-carboxamidine hydrochloride are stirred in a solution of 3.2 g of sodium metal in 125 ml of methanol overnight at 50 °C under nitrogen. After cooling the yellow suspension is treated with diluted hydrochloric acid, filtered, washed with water and dried. For purification the sparingly soluble trans-4-[5-(p-heptylphenyl)-2-pyrimidinyl]cyclohexane-carboxamide is refluxed with ether.

A stirred suspension of 10.8 g of the amide in 150 ml of pyridine is treated with 6.0 ml of benzene sulfochloride and kept 2 h at 55 °C. The reaction mixture is poured on ice-water, extracted with methylene chloride and the organic layer washed with hydrochloric acid, sodium hydrogen carbonate solution and water. After drying and evaporating the solvent the crude trans-4-[5-(p-heptylphenyl)-2-pyrimidinyl]cyclohexane-carbonitrile is chromatographed on a column of 300 g of silica gel with toluene/5% acetone. The pure fractions are combined, dissolved in hexane, treated with charcoal and recrystallized from hexane (yield 9.3 g); m.p. 83.5 °C, clp. 160 °C.

UV (EtOH) λmax (ε): 258 (21,100).
NMR: δ 8.86 (2, s), 7.65-7.15 (4, m), 3.0 (1, br m), 2.68 (2, br t, J = 7 Hz), 2.5-0.7 (22, m).
MS m/e (%): 361 (M+, 100), 307 (31), 295 (27), 281 (61), 268 (26), 196 (13), 115 (14).

C24H31N3
Calcd C 79.73 H 8.64 N 11.62,
Found C 79.63 H 8.63 N 11.42.

trans-4-[5-(trans-4-Pentylcyclohexyl)-
2-pyrimidinyl]cyclohexane-carbonitrile
(9, R = C8H17, Scheme 3)

16.0 g of crude 3-ethoxy-2-(trans-4-pentylcyclohexyl)acrolein and 15.0 g of trans-4-carbamoylcyclohexane-carboxamidine hydrochloride are stirred in a solution of 4.4 g of sodium metal in 175 ml of methanol overnight at 50 °C under nitrogen. After cooling the yellow suspension is treated with diluted hydrochloric acid, filtered, the residue washed with water and dried. The crude trans-4-[5-(trans-4-

UV (EtOH) λmax (ε): 249 sh (2630), 254 (3000), 261 sh (2300), 282 (310).
NMR: δ 8.55 (2, s), 3.2-0.7 (31, m).
MS m/e (%): 339 (M+, 100), 299 (8), 285 (19), 284 (12), 273 (20), 271 (11), 259 (58), 246 (11).

C22H33N3
Calcd C 77.83 H 9.80 N 12.38,
Found C 77.64 H 9.90 N 12.39.

Dielectric Constants

The measuring apparatus used to determine the static dielectric constants (at f = 1592 Hz) was described earlier. Figures 1-4 show the dependence of the dielectric constants εll and εl measured parallel and perpendicular to the long molecular axis respectively on reduced temperature T/Tc. The
measurements depicted in Fig. 1 were made within the homologous series of hydrogenated terpyrimidines (8), denominated TP₃HₓX. (The index in H indicates the position of the hydrogenated ring with respect to the cyano end group (Fig. 1), whereas the index in P refers to the position of the pyrimidine nitrogens with respect to the cyano end group.) Measurements made within the homologous series 7, denominated TP₃HₓX, where the third ring is hydrogenated, are shown in Fig. 2. Due to the large nematic-isotropic transition temperatures Tₓ (Table I) of this series the measurements could not be extended into the isotropic phase. The measurements of Fig. 3 were made with dicyclohexylpyrimidines (9), denominated DCHP₃X.

Comparing Figs. 1–3 shows that εₓ does not vary much within the homologous series as well as between the three classes of compounds (εₓ ≈ 5 ≈ constant). However, εᵧ was found to depend strongly on the length of the alkyl chains and to a lesser extent also on the position and number of hydrogenated rings. The dependence of εᵧ on chain length at a given reduced temperature is largest in short chain representatives of the type TP₃HₓX (Fig. 1), followed by TP₃HₓX and DCHP₃X (Figs. 2, 3). The dielectric anisotropy Δε = (εᵧ − εₓ) of TP₃HₓX for X ≤ 4 is 20–30% larger than the corresponding values of Δε of the other two series. Δε(TP₃HₓX) is comparable to Δε(DCHP₃X).

For comparison Fig. 4 shows measurements of the temperature dependence of εᵧ and εₓ of the nonhydrogenated terpyrimidine TP₃₄ (R = C₅H₁₀) and the terphenyl T₁₅ respectively. The data show

![Fig. 1. Dependence of the static dielectric constants εₓ and εᵧ of the homologous series TP₃HₓX on reduced temperature T/Tₓ (T in °K).](image1)

![Fig. 2. Temperature dependence εₓ(T) and εᵧ(T) of the homologous series TP₃HₓX.](image2)

![Fig. 3. Temperature dependence εₓ(T) and εᵧ(T) of the homologous series DCHP₃X.](image3)

![Fig. 4. Temperature dependence εₓ(T) and εᵧ(T) of TP₃₄ and T₁₅.](image4)
that $\Delta \epsilon$ of TP$_3$4 is $\sim 15\%$ lower than $\Delta \epsilon$(TP$_3$H$_4$4) (Figs. 1, 4). $\Delta \epsilon$ (T15) = $\Delta \epsilon$(TP$_3$H$_4$4) = $\Delta \epsilon$(TP$_3$4) was found for the dielectric anisotropy of TP$_3$H$_4$4. However, short chain molecules of the homologous series TP$_3$H$_4$X with their large dielectric anisotropies have – in contrast to the terpyrimidine or terphenyl series – still large mesomorphic ranges. Thus TP$_3$H$_5$2 whose $\Delta \epsilon$ is comparable to $\Delta \epsilon$(TP$_3$4) (Figs. 2, 4) can be used instead of TP$_3$4 in applications requiring large dielectric anisotropies, whereas at the other end of the series the dielectric properties of TP$_3$H$_5$7 are comparable to those of T15.

**Viscous and birefringence properties**

The dependence of the bulk viscosity $\eta$ of single components on temperature could not be measured with our rotating cone Brookfield microviscometer because of their high melting temperatures. To lower the melting temperatures towards room temperatures, where viscosity data of other liquid crystal classes are available [11] for comparison, binary mixtures were made. The binary mixtures A = (TP$_3$H$_5$, TP$_3$H$_7$), B = (TP$_3$H$_5$, TP$_3$H$_7$), and C = (DCHP$_3$, TP$_3$H$_7$) contained each a pentyl and a heptyl component in molar proportions 40%: 60%. For comparison with known three-ring compounds the viscosities of the binary mixtures D = (TP$_3$4, TP$_3$H$_7$), E = (TP$_3$H$_2$, TP$_3$4) and F = (T15, TP$_3$H$_7$) in the same molar proportions, i.e. (40%, 60%) were also investigated. The measured temperature dependences $\eta$(T) of the mixtures are depicted in Fig. 5. Comparing graphs B and F in Fig. 5 shows that the bulk viscosity of TP$_3$H$_5$ is comparable to the viscosity of T15. As viscosity decreases with decreasing alkyl chain length $\eta$(TP$_3$H$_2$) < $\eta$(T15) can be assumed. Fig. 5 indicates that the viscosity of compounds TP$_3$H$_5$X is lowest among the three new LC-classes (A, B, C and D in Fig. 5). This finding is in agreement with $\eta$(DCHP$_3$X) for which $\eta$(TP$_3$H$_3$X) < $\eta$(DCHP$_3$X) < $\eta$(TP$_3$H$_1$X) was found. A comparison between graphs B, D and E in Fig. 5 shows that the viscosity of TP$_3$4 is considerably larger than $\eta$ of TP$_3$H$_3$X compounds. Table II gives a summary of the viscous and dielectric data of mixtures A till F measured or extrapolated from Figs. 1–5 to $T = 60\, \degree C$. Table II also shows the melting and clearing temperatures $T_m$, $T_c$ of the binary mixtures A–F made at $T = 60\, \degree C$ = constant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LC</th>
<th>$\epsilon_1$</th>
<th>$\Delta \epsilon$</th>
<th>$\eta$ (cp)</th>
<th>$T_m$ [°C]</th>
<th>$T_c$ [°C]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.80</td>
<td>19.80</td>
<td>84.0</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>4.20</td>
<td>17.20</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>4.20</td>
<td>16.90</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>4.05</td>
<td>19.20</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>4.40</td>
<td>22.90</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>3.74</td>
<td>15.26</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 5. Temperature dependence of the bulk viscosity of the binary mixtures.

A = (TP$_3$H$_5$, TP$_3$H$_7$), B = (TP$_3$H$_5$, TP$_3$H$_7$), C = (DCHP$_3$, TP$_3$H$_7$), D = (TP$_3$4, TP$_3$H$_7$), E = (TP$_3$H$_2$, TP$_3$4) and F = (T15, TP$_3$H$_7$) having molar ratios (40%, 60%).
\( \Delta n \) much. The values found for \( \Delta n \) are comparable to those of biphenyls [11] as expected from the two conjugated aromatic rings in each class which primarily determine the birefringence properties.

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