SYNTHESIS OF 1,1',3,3'-TETRAETHYL-5,5'-BIS(TRIFLUORO-METHYLSULFONYL)IMIDATRICARBOCYANINE

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Imidacarbocyanine with  $SO_2CF_3$  groups in the 5 and 5' positions (I, n = 1) proved to be an effective photosensitizer [1]. In the imidacyanine dye series, tricarbocyanines could not be obtained up until now.

We have found that tricarbocyanine I (n = 3) is formed if a suspension of 1.8 g of 1-ethyl-5-trifluoromethylsulfonylbenzimidazolium ethiodide, 0.56 g of glutaconic aldehyde anilanilide hydrochloride, and 0.2 g of triethylamine in 10 ml of pyridine is allowed to stand for 20 days at  $20-24^{\circ}$  in the dark. Filtration of the mixture gave 0.33 g (74%) of the starting quaternary salt, which was washed with pyridine. The pyridine solution was diluted with water, and the dye was extracted with chloroform. The chloroform solution was washed with water, the chloroform was evaporated to a volume of 5 ml, and hexane was added. The precipitated dye was removed by filtration and washed with hexane and ether. It was crystallized from alcohol and washed with alcohol until the mother liquor became pure blue in color. This procedure gave 0.07 g (16%) of a product with mp  $212-213^{\circ}$  (dec.). Found, %: F 13.7.  $C_{31}H_{33}F_{6}IN_{4}O_{4}S_{2}$ . Calculated, %: F 13.7.

$$CF_3SO_2 \xrightarrow{C_2H_5} CCH = CH)_n - CH = CN$$

$$CH = CH - CH$$

$$CH = CH - CH$$

$$C_2H_5$$

$$C_2H_5$$

Lengthening of the chromophore of the dye by one CH=CH group causes a bathochromic shift of about 100 nm in the absorption maximum ( $\lambda_{max}$  is 519, 622, and 728, respectively, for n = 1, 2, and 3).

## LITERATURE CITED

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