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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Radical Copolymerization of 2-Methyl-2-vinyl-1,3-dioxolane with Acrylonitrile

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It has been reported that allylic monomer has low polymerizability because of degradative chain transfer [1-3]. In previous papers [2, 3] we have shown that the polymerizability of vinyl acetal might be based upon the ability of hydrogen abstraction at the allylic proton by the propagating radical. In order to investigate this effect further, 2-methyl-2-vinyl-1,3-dioxolane (I) was synthesized and copolymerized with acrylonitrile (AN) in dimethylformamide (DMF) at 60°C. The results will be compared with those of 2-vinyl-1,3-dioxolane derivatives.

Monomer I was prepared from methyl ethyl ketone as follows:

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Chlorination was carried out by the method described by Rabjohn et al. [4] (yield, 18%). Acetalic condensation was carried out according to Fischer's method [5] (yield, 54%; bp, 66-67° C/11 Torr). Dehydrochlorination was carried out as follows: 500 g of diethylene glycol, about 250 g of potassiumhydroxide, and 50 g of chlorinated acetal were placed into a 1-liter flask equipped with an agitator, condenser, and N<sub>2</sub> line. The solution was heated at 95°C for 5 hr and then distilled from the reaction mixture. The product obtained, I, was characterized by elemental analysis and IR and NMR spectra (yield, 50%: bp, 112-114°C/706 Torr) [6].

Polymerization was done as described in our previous papers.

The results of the copolymerization of AN  $(M_1)$  with I  $(M_2)$  are given in Table 1. The increase of the acetal concentration in the monomer feed decreased both the copolymerization rate  $(R_p)$  and p

the number-average molecular weight  $(\overline{M}_n)$ . Such phenomena were

observed in the copolymerization of AN with vinyl acetal, which might be affected by the degradative chain transfer of the allyl group [2, 3]. It would not be expected, however, that this mechanism would operate on the polymerizability of I because of the nonexistence of an active proton in L. In fact, the chain transfer constant  $(C_{tr})$  of I toward polystyryl radical was determined as about zero (Table 2).

Table 2 also contains the copolymerization parameters as well as the results of other vinyl acetals [2]. All acetals were found to have only weak copolymerizability with AN. It is particularly interesting to note that the monomer reactivity ratio of I was much higher than those of other monomers, in spite of an absence of the degradative chain transfer reaction. One possible explanation is that vinyl group in I might be sterically hindered by both methyl and dioxolane groups, as in the case of polymerizations of  $\alpha$ -substituted vinyl monomers [7-9].

	TABI	.E. 1. Copolyme	rizations of AN with I <sup>a</sup>		
Charged composition acctal (mole %)	Polymerization time ( min)	Conversion (%)	Copolym <u>e</u> rization rate (mole/liter sec × 10 <sup>-5</sup> )	Incorporated ratio acetal (mole %)	۹ "W
10 25	120 190	11.22 10.16	4.11 2.83	2.75 5.64	6968 4918
40 55	345 561	10.64 8.30	1. 82 0. 89	5,73 12,00	4405 3105
70 85	1088 2810	5.68 2.07	0.34 0.05	13.80 23.69	2854 2135
<sup>a</sup> Polymeriz AIBN, 7.72 × bVPO meth	ation conditions: to 10 <sup>3</sup> mole/liter, od (in DMF at 75°C	tal volume, 25 n.:	ıl; total monomers, 0.0	6 mole; concent	ration of
T/	ABLE 2. Chain Tra	nsfer Constants	$(c_{tr})$ and Copolymeriz	ation Parameter	8.
Monomer	$C_{\rm tr} \times 10^{-4}$	. rı	Γ2	ი	Ð
l Ila IlVa	0 16.60 14.37 2.40	11.97 4.80 5.85 4.25	0.01 0.15 0.01 0.05	0.012 0.020 0.014 0.032	-0.25 -0.10 -0.49 -0.04

<sup>a</sup>Data of previous paper [2, 3].

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