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# POLYMERIZATION OF 1-ETHYNYL-1-CYCLOHEXANOL BY TRANSITION METAL CATALYSTS

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## ABSTRACT

The polymerization of 1-ethynyl-1-cyclohexanol (ECHO) was carried out by various transition metal catalysts. The Mo- and W-based catalysts gave a relatively low yield of polymer ( $\leq 32\%$ ). The catalytic activity of Mo-based catalysts was greater than that of W-based catalysts. PdCl<sub>2</sub> was a very effective catalyst for the present polymerization and gave a high yield of polymer. (Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>2</sub> and PtCl<sub>2</sub> were also found to be effective catalysts. The structure of the resulting poly(ECHO) was identified by various instrumental methods as a conjugated polyene structure having an  $\alpha$ -hydroxycyclohexyl substituent. The poly(ECHO)s were mostly light-brown powders and completely soluble in various organic solvents such as chloroform, chlorobenzene, benzene, DMSO, and THF. Thermal and morphological properties were also studied.

#### INTRODUCTION

The polymerization of acetylene and its derivatives is one of the fundamental methods for the synthesis of polymers having a conjugated system. They are used as organic semiconductors [1-5], membranes for gas separation [6, 7], liquid-mixture separation [8, 9], side-chain liquid crystals [10, 11], and radiation degradation (electron-beam resist) [12-14].

The polymerization of the propargyl derivative, which is a monosubstituted acetylene, is scarce and restricted to propargyl halides [15], propargyl ethers [15], dipropargyl ether [16], and propiolic acid [17].

In recent years we have reported the polymerization of propargyl halides [18, 19], ethers [20], and amines [21], and the cyclopolymerization of dipropargyl derivatives such as dipropargyl ether [22], sulfide [23], silanes [24], germaniums [25], and diphenylmethane [26].

The polymerization of 2-propyn-1-ol, which has a hydroxy functional group, is carried out by PdCl<sub>2</sub> [15], NiI<sub>2</sub>(Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>2</sub> [27], Ni(NCS)( $C \equiv CR$ )(Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>2</sub> [27],  $\gamma$ -rays [28], plasma [29], etc. We have also reported a systematic study on the polymerization of 2-propyn-1-ol by various Mo- and W-based catalysts [30]. However, the poly(2-propyn-1-ol) obtained was insoluble in any organic solvent. Recently we prepared such soluble poly(2-propyn-1-ol) homologues as poly(3-butyn-2-ol), poly-(1-octyn-3-ol), and poly(2-phenyl-3-butyn-2-ol) by introducing a substituent at the methylene carbon of 2-propyn-1-ol [31].

A systematic study on the polymerization of ECHO has not been reported. The copolymerization of ECHO with cyclopentadiene in xylene at 200-300 °C was reported [32]. Dimerization of ECHO was carried out using nickel [33] and rhodium [34] metal complex catalysts. The trimerization and oligomerization of ECHO by organometallic complexes of nickel were reported by some research groups [35-38]. In recent years the solid-state polymerization of ECHO was carried out by irradiation in a Co-60  $\gamma$ -ray source at a dose rate of 0.06 Mrad/h in a benzene solution or in the solid state. The polymerization gave almost 80-90% polymer yield whereas in the solid state there was about 50% conversion [39]. However, in this polymerization the polymerization time was very long (about 4000 hours) and the products at lower conversions were mixtures of trimer, oligomers, and polymer.

The present paper reports a facile synthesis of poly(ECHO) in high yield by Pd-, Pt-, Mo-, and W-based catalysts, and the characterization of the resulting poly(ECHO).

#### EXPERIMENTAL

#### **Materials**

ECHO (Aldrich Chemicals, 99%) was used after fractional distillation. MoCl<sub>5</sub>, MoCl<sub>4</sub>, and WCl<sub>6</sub> (Aldrich Chemicals, resublimed, 99 + %) were used as received. Tetraphenyltin (Aldrich Chemicals, 97%) was purified by recrystallizing twice from carbon tetrachloride. EtAlCl<sub>2</sub> (Aldrich Chemicals, 1.8 M solution in toluene) was used as received. PdCl<sub>2</sub> (Aldrich Chemicals, 99.995%) and PtCl<sub>2</sub> (Strem) were used without further purification. (Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>2</sub> was prepared by a reported method [40]. All polymerization solvents were analytical grade materials. They were dried with appropriate drying agents and fractionally distilled.

#### Preparation of Catalyst Systems

All procedures for catalyst system preparation were carried out under a dry nitrogen atmosphere because the active species are sensitive to moisture or oxygen.  $MoCl_5$ ,  $MoCl_4$ , and  $WCl_6$  were dissolved in chlorobenzene as 0.1 and 0.2 M solutions before use.  $PdCl_2$ ,  $(Ph_3P)_2PdCl_2$ ,  $PtCl_2$ , and  $Ph_4Sn$  were added as powder in the polymerization ampule.

#### **Polymerization Procedures**

A polymerization ampule equipped with rubber septum was flushed with dry nitrogen. Injections of catalyst solution and monomer were done by means of hypodermic syringes from which air and moisture had been carefully excluded.

## Polymerization of ECHO by MoCl<sub>5</sub>-EtAlCl<sub>2</sub> (1:2)

A catalyst solution was prepared by mixing  $MoCl_5$  (0.425 mL of 0.2 M chlorobenzene solution, 0.0805 mmol), EtAlCl<sub>2</sub> (0.850 mL of 0.2 M chlorobenzene solution, 0.161 mmol), and chlorobenzene (0.925 mL,  $[M]_0 = 1.5$ ) and aged by keeping it at 30°C for 15 minutes. To this solution was added ECHO (0.5g, 4.026 mmol) at room temperature. The polymerization was carried out at 80°C for 24 hours. The polymerization was stopped by adding a small amount of methanol. The solvents (chlorobenzene, methanol) were removed by vacuum evaporation below a temperature of 50°C. A cosolvent (DMF/ethanol, volume ratio 3/1) was added to this sample. The resulting polymer solution was precipitated in excess distilled water. The polymer was filtered from the solution and dried under vacuum at 40°C for 24 hours. The polymer yield was 30%.

## Polymerization of ECHO by PdCl<sub>2</sub>

PdCl<sub>2</sub> (0.024 g, 0.134 mmol) was dissolved in DMF (4.86 mL,  $[M]_0 = 0.75$ ) at 90°C. ECHO (0.5 g, 4.026 mmol) was added to this catalyst solution. After a given polymerization time (24 hours), 10 mL cosolvent (DMF/ethanol, volume ratio 3/1)

Experiment	Catalyst system <sup>b</sup> (mole ratio)	Polymer yield,° %	$\overline{M}_n^{\mathrm{d}}$
1	MoCl <sub>5</sub>	10	_
2	MoCl <sub>5</sub> -EtAlCl <sub>2</sub> (1:2)	30	2410
3	MoCl <sub>5</sub> -Ph₄Sn (1:1)	27	2120
4	MoCl₄	13	_
5	MoCl <sub>4</sub> -EtAlCl <sub>2</sub> (1:2)	32	2750
6	WCl <sub>6</sub>	5	-
7	$WCl_6-Ph_4Sn(1:1)$	16	_
8	$WCl_6$ -EtAlCl <sub>2</sub> (1:2)	11	—

TABLE 1. Polymerization of ECHO by Mo- and W-Based Catalysts<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Polymerization was carried out for 24 hours at 80 °C in chlorobenzene. The monomer-to-catalyst mole ratio (M/C) and initial monomer concentration  $([M]_0)$  were 50 and 1.5 M, respectively.

<sup>b</sup>Mixture of catalyst and cocatalyst was aged at 30°C for 15 minutes before use.

<sup>°</sup>Water-insoluble polymer.

<sup>a</sup>Measured by means of Waters GPC-510 using calibration curves for polystyrene.

was added and the polymer solution was precipitated in excess distilled water. The polymer was filtered from the solution and dried under vacuum at 40°C for 24 hours. The polymer yield was 93%.

## Instruments and Measurement

NMR (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C) spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM-200 spectrometer in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, and chemical shifts were reported in ppm units with tetramethylsilane as the internal standard. Infrared spectra were obtained with a Bio-Rad Digilab FTS-60 spectrometer using potassium bromide pellets. Ultraviolet (UV)-visible spectra were obtained using a Shimadzu UV-3100s spectrophotometer in chloroform. The average molecular weights of the polymers were measured with a Waters GPC-510 using calibration curves for polystyrene. Thermogravimetric analyses (TGA) were performed under a nitrogen atmosphere at a heating rate of 10°C/min up to 700°C with a DuPont 1090 Analyzer. X-ray diffraction patterns of polymer samples were obtained on a Rigaku Geigerflex x-ray diffractometer equipped with a Wahrus flat-plate camera using Ni-filtered CuK<sub> $\alpha$ </sub> radiation at a scan speed of 4°/min.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The polymerization of ECHO was carried out by various transition metal catalysts.



Table 1 shows the results for the polymerization of ECHO by Mo- and Wbased catalysts. The polymer yields were relatively low. The catalytic activities of Mo-based catalysts were found to be greater than those of W-based catalysts. This result is consistent with those for the polymerization of propargyl derivatives having oxygen atom such as 2-propyn-1-ol [31], alkyl propargyl ether [20], dipropargyl ether [22], and phenyl propargyl ether [41]. The molybdenum chloride-EtAlCl<sub>2</sub> catalyst system polymerized ECHO to give a moderate yield of poly(ECHO). The catalytic activity of MoCl<sub>4</sub> was similar with that of MoCl<sub>5</sub>. The number-average molecular weights ( $\overline{M}_n$ ) of poly(ECHO) obtained by Mo-based catalysts were relatively low ( $<\overline{M}_n = 3000$ ).

Table 2 shows the results for the polymerization of ECHO by  $PdCl_2$ ,  $(Ph_3P)_2$ -PdCl<sub>2</sub>, and PtCl<sub>2</sub>. In general, the polymer yields were greater than those obtained by Mo- and W-based catalysts. The polymerization proceeded well in such solvents as DMF, DMSO, nitrobenzene, and 1,4-dioxane to give a high yield of polymer. As the initial monomer concentration ([M]<sub>0</sub>) was increased from 0.5 to 1.0 (Experiments 2, 3, and 4), the polymer yield also increased, from 91% at [M]<sub>0</sub> = 0.5 to 98% at [M]<sub>0</sub> = 1.0. (Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>2</sub> also polymerized ECHO to give a moderate yield

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		M/C <sup>b</sup>			Temperature,	Polymer	
Experiment	Catalyst	(mole ratio)	[M]°	Solvent	°C	yield, %	$\overline{M}_{n}^{c}$
1	PdCl,	50	0.75	DMF	06	<b>9</b> 9	1810
7	PdCI,	30	0.75	DMF	8	93	2350
æ	PdCI,	30	0.5	DMF	90	91	2370
4	PdCI,	30	1.0	DMF	8	98	2240
S	PdCI,	30	0.75	Nitrobenzene	6	87	650
9	PdCI,	30	0.75	1,4-Dioxane	8	62	1930
7	PdCI,	30	0.75	DMSO	90	66	1120
8	PdCI,	30	0.75	EtOH	60	27	1840
6	PdCI,	30	0.75	HCO <sub>2</sub> H	6	0	ł
10	(Ph <sub>3</sub> P) <sub>2</sub> PdCl <sub>2</sub>	30	0.75	DMF	96	50	910
11	PtCl <sub>2</sub>	30	0.75	DMF	6	71	1270
<sup>a</sup> Polymer <sup>b</sup> Monome	ization was carried of	ut for 24 hours.					
"Initial m	onomer concentratio	m (M).					

1-ETHYNYL-1-CYCLOHEXANOL

unual monomer concentration (M). <sup>d</sup>Water-insoluble polymer.

\*Measured by means of a Waters GPC-150C using calibration curves for polystyrene.

(50%) of polymer. PtCl<sub>2</sub> was also found to be effective for the present polymerization of ECHO. The number-average molecular weights ( $\overline{M}_n$ ) of poly(ECHO) prepared by Pd and Pt chlorides were in the range from 910 to 2370. In most cases the GPC chromatograms were unimodal. This indicates that the present polymer samples do not contain the dimer or trimer of ECHO.

The structure of poly(ECHO) was characterized by various instrumental methods such as NMR (<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C), IR, and UV-visible spectroscopies. Figure 1 shows the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of poly(ECHO) prepared by  $PdCl_2$  in DMF. The peaks at 5.5–6.5 ppm are due to the vinyl protons on the polymer backbone and the hydroxy protons. There are also methylene protons at 1.3–2.8 ppm.



FIG. 1. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of poly(ECHO) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



FIG. 2. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of poly(ECHO) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

Figure 2 shows the <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of poly(ECHO) prepared by  $PdCl_2$ . It shows the presence of olefinic carbons in the polymer backbone at 125–135 ppm and methylene carbon peaks at 15–40 ppm.

Figure 3 shows the IR spectra of ECHO and poly(ECHO) in a KBr pellet. The IR spectrum of poly(ECHO) showed neither the acetylenic hydrogen (3306 cm<sup>-1</sup>) nor the carbon-carbon triple bond stretching (2110 cm<sup>-1</sup>) presented in the IR spectrum of ECHO. Instead, the carbon-carbon double bond stretching frequency at about 1660 cm<sup>-1</sup> indicates a highly conjugated unsaturation.

The UV-visible spectrum (Fig. 4) of poly(ECHO) was recorded in chloroform. It shows a characteristic absorption peak of conjugated polymer,  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  absorption at a long wavelength (up to 600 nm). The intensity of the absorption peak at longer wavelength was greater than that of poly(ECHO) prepared by the irradiation of a Co-60  $\gamma$ -ray source [39]. The increased intensity at longer wavelength was due to the increased molecular weight of the present poly(ECHO). The spectral properties of poly(ECHO)s prepared by Mo-based catalysts were similar to those of poly-(ECHO) prepared by PdCl<sub>2</sub>, regardless of the polymerization conditions.

These spectral data indicate that the present poly(ECHO)s have a conjugated polyene structure having an  $\alpha$ -hydroxycyclohexyl substituent.

Solubility tests of poly(ECHO)s were performed for powder sample in excess solvent. Poly(ECHO) was completely soluble in various organic solvents such as chloroform, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, chlorobenzene, benzene, ethanol, DMSO, and



FIG. 3. FT-IR spectra of ECHO and poly(ECHO) in KBr pellet.

THF but insoluble in n-hexane and water. The resulting poly(ECHO) was mostly a light-brown powder.

Figure 5 shows the TGA thermogram of poly(ECHO). This polymer shows a gradual weight loss from the initial low temperature. This may be due to the absorbed moisture and organic residues in the polymer. This thermogram shows that poly(ECHO) retains 91% of its original weight at 200°C, 80% at 270°C, 40% at 390°C, and 19% at 500°C.

The morphology of the resulting poly(ECHO) was also investigated by x-ray diffraction analysis (Fig. 6). The data of x-ray diffraction analysis are as follows:  $2\theta(\Delta 2\theta/2\theta) = 8.5$  (1.29), 17.2 (0.59). Because the peaks in the diffraction patterns are all broad and the ratio of the half-height width to the diffraction angle ( $\Delta 2\theta/2\theta$ ) is greater than 0.35 [42], the present poly(ECHO) is amorphous.



FIG. 4. UV-visible spectrum of poly(ECHO) in CHCl<sub>3</sub>.



FIG. 5. TGA thermogram of poly(ECHO).



FIG. 6. X-ray diffractogram of poly(ECHO).

#### CONCLUSIONS

Interesting results for the polymerization of ECHO having a hydroxy functional group were presented in this paper. The catalytic activity of Mo-based catalysts was greater than that of W-based catalysts.  $PdCl_2$  polymerized ECHO effectively in various solvents to give a high yield of polymer.  $(Ph_3P)_2PdCl_2$  and  $PtCl_2$ were also found to be effective catalysts. It was concluded from various instrumental analyses that the present poly(ECHO) has a conjugated polymer backbone having an  $\alpha$ -hydroxycyclohexyl substituent. Poly(ECHO) was completely soluble in chloroform, ethanol, DMSO, and THF but insoluble in *n*-hexane and water. The data of x-ray analysis showed that poly(ECHO) is amorphous.

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