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Novel Copolymers of Styrene and Halogen Ring-Disubstituted 2-Cyano-*N,N*-Dimethyl-3-Phenyl-2-Propenamides

Gregory B. Kharas^a; Xue Tian^a; Trang H. Huynh^a; Thomas W. Lyons^a; Lani A. Macartney^a; Dylan Smith^a; Jenelle L. Mallios^a; Nancy Nguyen^a; Jamie L. Sandifer^a; Daniel S. Stankovich^a; Joanna J. Szwajnos^a; Hakam I. Tadros^a

^a Chemistry Department, DePaul University, IL, USA

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Novel Copolymers of Styrene and Halogen Ring-Disubstituted 2-Cyano-*N,N*-Dimethyl-3-Phenyl-2-Propenamides

GREGORY B. KHARAS, XUE TIAN, TRANG H. HUYNH, THOMAS W. LYONS, LANI A. MACARTNEY, DYLAN SMITH, JENELLE L. MALLIOS, NANCY NGUYEN, JAMIE L. SANDIFER, DANIEL S. STANKOVICH, JOANNA J. SZWAJNOS, and HAKAM I. TADROS

Chemistry Department, DePaul University, IL, USA

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Electrophilic trisubstituted ethylene monomers, halogen ring-disubstituted 2-cyano-*N,N*-dimethyl-3-phenyl-2-propenamides, $\text{RC}_6\text{H}_3\text{CH}=\text{C}(\text{CN})\text{CON}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ (where R is 2,3-dichloro, 2,4-dichloro, 2,6-dichloro, 3,4-dichloro, 3,5-dichloro, 2,3-difluoro, 2,4-difluoro, 2,6-difluoro, 3,4-difluoro, 3,5-difluoro), were synthesized by potassium hydroxide catalyzed Knoevenagel condensation of ring-substituted benzaldehydes and *N,N*-dimethyl cyanoacetamide, and characterized by CHN elemental analysis, IR, ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR. Novel copolymers of the ethylenes and styrene were prepared at equimolar monomer feed composition by solution copolymerization in the presence of a radical initiator, ABCN at 70°C. The composition of the copolymers was calculated from nitrogen analysis, and the structures were analyzed by IR, ^1H and ^{13}C NMR, GPC, DSC, and TGA. High T_g of the copolymers in comparison with that of polystyrene indicates a substantial decrease in chain mobility of the copolymer due to the high dipolar character of the trisubstituted ethylene monomer unit. The gravimetric analysis indicated that the copolymers decompose in the 300–450°C range.

Keywords: trisubstituted ethylenes; radical copolymerization; styrene copolymers

1 Introduction

Previous studies showed that trisubstituted ethylenes containing substituents larger than fluorine have very low reactivity in radical homopolymerization due to polar and steric reasons. Although steric difficulties preclude homopolymerization of most tri- and tetrasubstituted olefins, their copolymerization with a monosubstituted alkene makes it possible to overcome these steric problems (1). Copolymerization of trisubstituted ethylenes (TSE, $\text{CHR}^1=\text{CR}^2\text{R}^3$) having double bonds substituted with halo, cyano, and carbonyl groups and electron-rich monosubstituted ethylenes such as styrene, *N*-vinylcarbazole, and vinyl acetate (2, 3) show a tendency toward the formation of alternating copolymers. In continuation of our studies of the monomer structure-reactivity correlation in the radical copolymerization of TSE monomers (4–6), we have prepared novel alkyl ring-disubstituted 2-cyano-*N,N*-dimethyl-3-phenyl-1-2-propenamides, $\text{RC}_6\text{H}_3\text{CH}=\text{C}(\text{CN})\text{CON}(\text{CH}_3)_2$,

where R is 2,3-dichloro, 2,4-dichloro, 2,6-dichloro, 3,4-dichloro, 3,5-dichloro, 2,3-difluoro, 2,4-difluoro, 2,6-difluoro, 3,4-difluoro, 3,5-difluoro, and explore the feasibility of their copolymerization with styrene.

2 Experimental

2.1 General Procedures

Infrared spectra of the TSE monomers (KBr plates) and polymers (KBr pellets) were determined with a Nicolet Avatar 360 FT-IR spectrometer. The melting points of the monomers and the glass transition temperatures (T_g) of the copolymers were measured by using a TA Instruments model DSC 2010. Thermal stability of the copolymers was measured by using a TA Instruments model TGA 2090. The molecular weight of polymers was determined relative to polystyrene standards in THF solutions with sample concentrations about 3–5 mg/ml by gel permeation chromatography (GPC) using a Alltech Model 426 HPLC pump at an elution rate of 1.0 ml/min, a Viscotek TDA 302 detector, a Viscotek Model 2501 UV detector, a linear ultrastraygel column and OminiSEC software. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR spectra

Address correspondence to: Gregory B. Kharas, Chemistry Department, DePaul University, IL, 60614-3214, USA. Fax: 773-325-7421; E-mail: gkharas@depaul.edu

of 4–10% CDCl_3 solutions of monomers and polymers were obtained on a Bruker Avance 300 MHz spectrometer. Elemental analyses were performed by Quantitative Technologies Inc., NJ.

2.2 Synthesis of Monomers

2,3-Dichloro, 2,4-dichloro, 2,6-dichloro, 3,4-dichloro, 3,5-dichloro, 2,3-difluoro, 2,4-difluoro, 2,6-difluoro, 3,4-difluoro, and 3,5-difluorobenzaldehydes, *N,N*-dimethyl cyanoacetamide, supplied from Aldrich Chemical Co., were used for monomer synthesis as received. The preparation procedure was essentially the same for all the TSE monomers. In a typical synthesis, equimolar amounts of *N,N*-dimethyl cyanoacetamide and an appropriate ring-disubstituted benzaldehyde were mixed in a vial with a screw-on top. The vial was heated in a hot water bath until the mixture formed a solution followed by the addition of about one drop of a KOH solution. The crystalline product of the reaction was isolated by filtration and purified by recrystallization from 2-propanol.

2.3 2-Cyano-*N,N*-dimethyl-3-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-2-propenamide

Yield: 73%; mp 129°C; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ δ 3.1, 3.2 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 7.3–7.5 (m, 3H, phenyl); 7.9 (s, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{C}$); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ δ 38, 39 ($\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 108 ($=\text{C}(\text{CN})\text{CO}$), 115 (CN), 129, 133, (phenyl), 149 ($\text{CH}=\text{C}$), 164 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$); IR (cm^{-1}) 2941 (m, C-H), 2218 (w, CN), 1655 (s, $\text{C}=\text{O}$), 784 (m, C-H out-of-plane bending). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$: C, 53.55; H, 3.75; N, 10.41. Found: C, 52.45; H, 3.36; N, 9.98.

2.4 2-Cyano-*N,N*-dimethyl-3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-propenamide

Yield: 89%; mp 145; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ δ 3.0, 3.3 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 7.3, 7.4 (m, 3H, phenyl), 7.8 (s, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{C}$); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ δ 37, 38 ($\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 107 ($=\text{C}(\text{CN})\text{CO}$), 116 (CN), 128, 130, 135 (phenyl), 151 ($\text{CH}=\text{C}$), 162 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$); IR (cm^{-1}) 2938 (m, C-H), 2232 (w, CN), 1661 (s, $\text{C}=\text{O}$), 819, 736 (m, C-H out-of-plane bending). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$: C, 53.55; H, 3.75; N, 10.41. Found: C, 52.85; H, 3.77; N, 9.98.

2.5 2-Cyano-*N,N*-dimethyl-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-2-propenamide

Yield: 66%; mp 108°C; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ δ 3.1, 3.2 (d, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 7.2, 7.4 (m, 3H, phenyl), 8.2 (s, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{C}$); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ δ 38 ($\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 107 ($=\text{C}(\text{CN})\text{CO}$), 116 (CN), 129, 132 (phenyl), 148 ($\text{CH}=\text{C}$), 164 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$); IR (cm^{-1}) 2938 (m, C-H), 2216 (w, CN), 1650 (s, $\text{C}=\text{O}$), 843 (m, C-H out-of-plane bending). Anal. calcd. For $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$: C, 53.55; H, 3.75; N, 10.41. Found: C, 52.47; H, 3.58; N, 9.99.

2.6 2-Cyano-*N,N*-dimethyl-3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-propenamide

Yield: 82%; mp 111°C; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ δ 3.1, 3.3 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 7.5, 7.6, 7.8, (m, 3H, phenyl), 7.9 (s, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{C}$); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ δ 37, 39 ($\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 109 ($=\text{C}(\text{CN})\text{CO}$), 115 (CN), 128, 131, 134, 136 (phenyl), 149 ($\text{CH}=\text{C}$), 163 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$); IR (cm^{-1}) 2936 (m, C-H), 2260, (w, CN), 1653 (s, $\text{C}=\text{O}$), 819, 742 (m, C-H out-of-plane bending). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$: C, 53.55; H, 3.75; N, 10.41. Found: C, 53.12; H, 3.55; N, 10.20.

2.7 2-Cyano-*N,N*-dimethyl-3-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-2-propenamide

Yield: 43%; mp 140°C; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ δ 3.1, 3.2 (d, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 7.3, 7.5, 7.6 (m, 3H, phenyl), 7.7 (s, 1H, $-\text{CH}=\text{C}$); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ δ 37, 38 ($\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 110 ($=\text{C}(\text{CN})\text{CO}$), 115 (CN), 128, 132, 136, 138 (phenyl), 148 ($-\text{CH}=\text{C}$), 163 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$); IR (cm^{-1}) 3072, 2941 (m, C-H), 2245 (w, CN), 1662 (s, $\text{C}=\text{O}$), 864, 802 (m, C-H out-of-plane bending). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$: C, 53.55; H, 3.75; N, 10.41. Found: C, 52.11; H, 3.70; N, 9.86.

2.8 2-Cyano-*N,N*-dimethyl-3-(2,3-difluorophenyl)-2-propenamide

Yield: 76%; mp 136°C; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ δ 3.1, 3.2 (d, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 7.1, 7.4, 7.6 (m, 3H, phenyl), 7.8 (s, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{C}$); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ δ 38 ($\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 105 ($=\text{C}(\text{CN})\text{CO}$), 115 (CN), 121, 125, 149 (phenyl), 152 ($\text{CH}=\text{C}$), 164 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$); IR (cm^{-1}) 2941 (m, C-H), 2251 (w, CN), 1656 (s, $\text{C}=\text{O}$), 769 (m, C-H out-of-plane bending). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$: C, 61.02; H, 4.27; N, 11.86. Found: C, 57.64; H, 4.81; N, 10.62.

2.9 2-Cyano-*N,N*-dimethyl-3-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-2-propenamide

Yield: 79%; mp 148°C; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ δ 3.1 (d, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 7.1, 7.8 (m, 3H, phenyl), 7.9 (s, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{C}$); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ δ 38 ($\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 105 ($=\text{C}(\text{CN})\text{CO}$), 115 (CN), 120, 124, 132, 150 (phenyl), 151 ($\text{CH}=\text{C}$), 165 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$); IR (cm^{-1}) 2928 (m, C-H), 2217 (w, CN), 1656 (s, $\text{C}=\text{O}$), 728 (m, C-H out-of-plane bending). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$: C, 61.02; H, 4.27; N, 11.86; Found: C, 59.24; H, 4.46; N, 11.32.

2.10 2-Cyano-*N,N*-dimethyl-3-(2,6-difluorophenyl)-2-propenamide

Yield: 77%; mp 106°C; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ δ 3.0, 3.3 (d, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 7.0, 7.3, 7.4 (m, 3H, phenyl), 7.7 (s, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{C}$); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ δ 35, 37 ($\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 111 ($=\text{C}(\text{CN})\text{CO}$), 115 (CN), 132, 139 (phenyl), 152 ($\text{CH}=\text{C}$), 162 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$); IR (cm^{-1}): 2942 (m, C-H), 2246 (w, CN), 1650 (s, $\text{C}=\text{O}$), 790 (m, C-H out-of-plane bending). Anal. calcd. $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$: for C, 61.02; H, 4.27; N, 11.86. Found: C, 59.49; H, 4.75; N, 11.06.

2.11 2-Cyano-*N,N*-dimethyl-3-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-2-propenamide

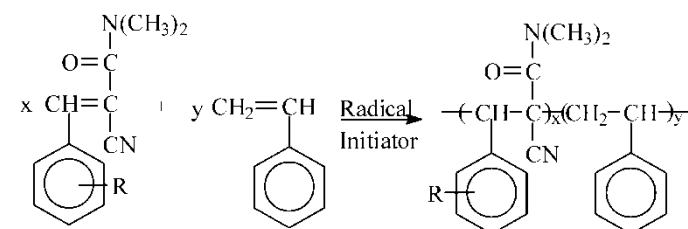
Yield: 98%; mp 106°C; ¹H-NMR δ 3.1, 3.3 (d, 6H, N(CH₃)₂), 7.3, 7.7 (m, 3H, phenyl), 7.8 (s, 1H, CH=); ¹³C-NMR δ 37, 39 (N(CH₃)₂), 109 (=C(CN)CO), 115 (CN), 118, 119, 127 (phenyl), 150 (CH=), 163 (C=O); IR (cm⁻¹) 2945 (m, C-H), 2209 (w, CN), 1650 (s, C=O), 758 (m, C-H out-of-plane bending). Anal. calcd. C₁₂H₁₀F₂N₂O: for C, 61.02; H, 4.27; N, 11.86. Found: C, 58.37; H, 4.12; N, 11.60.

2.12 2-Cyano-*N,N*-dimethyl-3-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-propenamide

Yield: 62%; mp 153°C; ¹H-NMR δ 3.1, 3.3 (d, 6H, N(CH₃)₂), 7.1, 7.4 (m, 3H, phenyl), 7.9 (s, 1H, CH=); ¹³C-NMR δ 37, 39 (N(CH₃)₂), 107 (=C(CN)CO), 115 (CN), 118, 119, 127 (phenyl), 149 (CH=), 164 (C=O); IR (cm⁻¹) 2939 (m, C-H), 2224 (w, CN), 1656 (s, C=O), 858 (m, C-H out-of-plane bending). Anal. calcd. for C₁₂H₁₀F₂N₂O: C, 61.02; H, 4.27; N, 11.86. Found: C, 56.67; H, 4.98; N, 11.34.

2.13 Copolymerization

Styrene (ST) (Aldrich) was purified by washing with aqueous sodium hydroxide, drying and subsequently distilling at reduced pressure. Ethyl acetate (Aldrich) was used as received. 1,1'-Azobis(cyclohexanecarbonitrile) (ABCN) (Aldrich) was recrystallized twice from ethyl alcohol and then dried under reduced pressure at ambient temperature. Copolymers of the TSE monomers and ST were prepared in 25-ml Pyrex screw cap ampoules at equimolar ratio of the monomer feed using 0.0045 mole/L of ABCN at an overall monomer concentration 2 mole/L in 20 ml of ethyl acetate. The copolymerization was conducted at 70°C. After a predetermined time, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and precipitated dropwise in methanol. The crude copolymers were purified by reprecipitation from chloroform solution into an excess of methanol. The composition of the copolymers was determined based on the nitrogen content.

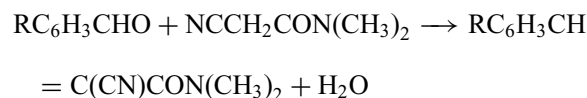


Sch. 1. ST-TSE copolymer synthesis. R = 2,3-dichloro, 2,4-dichloro, 2,6-dichloro, 3,4-dichloro, 3,5-dichloro, 2,3-difluoro, 2,4-difluoro, 2,6-difluoro, 3,4-difluoro, 3,5-difluoro.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Monomer Synthesis

The TSE monomers were synthesized by Knoevenagel condensation (7) of a ring-disubstituted benzaldehyde with *N,N*-dimethyl cyanoacetamide, catalyzed by a base, KOH.



The condensation reaction proceeded smoothly, yielding crystalline or liquid products, which were purified by conventional techniques.

3.2 Homopolymerization

An attempted homopolymerization of the TSE monomers in the presence of ABCN did not produce any polymer as indicated by the lack of a precipitate in methanol. The inability of the monomers to polymerize is associated with steric difficulties encountered in homopolymerization of 1,1- and 1,2-disubstituted ethylenes. This type of steric hindrance would increase the activation energy required for addition and slow down the rate of propagation to such an extent as to favor the occurrence of a chain transfer or termination instead. Homopolymerization of ST under conditions identical to those in the copolymerization experiments yielded 18.3% of polystyrene, when polymerized for 30 min.

3.3 Copolymerization

Copolymerization (Scheme 1) of halogen ring-disubstituted 2-cyano-*N,N*-dimethyl-3-phenyl-2-propenamides with ST resulted in formation of copolymers (Table 1) with weight-average molecular masses 10×10^3 to 19×10^3 daltons. According to elemental analysis, 18–32 mol% of TSE monomer is present in the copolymers, which is indicative of significant reactivity of the monomers towards ST. Scheme 1.

In an attempt to qualitatively correlate the observed monomer reactivities, we considered copolymer composition data obtained at equimolar monomer feed. The relative reactivity of ST in copolymerization with these monomers can be estimated by assuming applicability of the copolymer composition Equation (1) of the terminal copolymerization model (1):

$$\frac{m_1}{m_2} = \frac{[\text{M}_1](r_1[\text{M}_1] + [\text{M}_2])}{[\text{M}_2]([\text{M}_1] + r_2[\text{M}_2])} \quad (1)$$

m_1 and m_2 are the mole fractions of ST and TSE monomer units in the copolymer, respectively; $[\text{M}_1]$ and $[\text{M}_2]$ are the concentrations of ST and a TSE in the monomer feed, respectively. In the absence of the self-propagation of TSE monomers ($k_{22} = 0$, $r_2 = 0$), and at equimolar monomer

Table 1. Copolymerization of styrene (M_1) and 2-cyano-*N,N*-dimethyl-3-(*R*-phenyl)-2-propenamides, $RC_6H_3CH=C(CN)CON(CH_3)_2$ (M_2)

R	Yield ^a , wt%	Nitrogen, wt%	M_2 in copol., mol%	$M_w \times 10^{-3}$, D	T_g , °C	TGA			
						Onset of decom., °C	10 wt% loss, °C	50% wt loss, °C	Residue, wt%
2,3-Dichloro	13	4.36	21.80	10	147	294	303	338	13
2,4-Dichloro	18	4.39	22.00	12	167	292	305	338	12
2,6-Dichloro	19	4.57	23.24	13	168	289	304	337	10
3,4-Dichloro	21	5.74	32.23	12	191	281	294	322	13
3,5-Dichloro	12	5.01	26.41	19	167	297	308	340	12
2,3-Difluoro	21	4.92	23.80	17	166	297	308	336	11
2,4-Difluoro	18	4.79	22.99	15	167	300	309	338	8
2,6-Difluoro	16	3.96	18.09	10	119	293	302	340	12
3,4-Difluoro	22	5.04	24.57	13	169	296	305	334	11
3,5-Difluoro	18	4.76	22.81	12	162	298	303	337	10

^aPolymerization time was 7 days.

feed ($[M_1]/[M_2] = 1$), the above equation yields:

$$r_1 = \frac{m_1}{m_2 - 1} \quad (2)$$

Or the equation for the relative reactivity of styrene radical k_{12}/k_{11} with TSE monomers:

$$\frac{1}{r_1} = \frac{1}{[(m_1/m_2) - 1]} \quad (3)$$

Consideration of monomer reactivities according to Equation (3) also involves the assumption of minimal copolymer compositional drift at equimolar monomer feed and given conversion. This non-rigorous kinetic treatment nevertheless allows estimation of the reactivity of a ST-ended polymer radical in reaction with electrophilic monomer. Thus the order of relative reactivity ($1/r_1$) and the tendency toward alternation of monomer units in the copolymer for the seven TSE monomers is 3,4-dichloro (0.91) > 3,5-dichloro (0.56) > 3,4-difluoro (0.48) > 2,3-difluoro (0.45) > 2,4-difluoro (0.43) = 2,6-dichloro (0.43) > 3,5-difluoro (0.42) > 2,3-dichloro (0.39) = 2,4-dichloro (0.39) > 2,6-difluoro (0.28). More detailed information on the copolymer composition at different monomer feed ratios would be necessary for the application of copolymerization models that would allow prediction of copolymer composition.

3.4 Structure and Thermal Properties

The structure of copolymers was characterized by IR and NMR spectroscopy. A comparison of the spectra of the copolymers, TSE and polystyrene shows that the reaction between ST and TSE monomers is a copolymerization. IR spectra of copolymers show overlapping bands in 2800–3100 cm^{-1} region corresponding to C-H vibrations, weak cyano group absorption in 2218–2230 cm^{-1} , strong absorption of carbonyl group in 1640–1642 cm^{-1} , and strong doublet absorptions

around 698–699, 757–759 cm^{-1} associated with benzene ring out-of-plane bending. Polystyrene shows absorptions at 2927 cm^{-1} (C-H) and 758, 699 cm^{-1} (out-of-plane bending).

All NMR spectra show broad resonance signals. Broadening of the NMR signals in the spectra of the copolymers is associated with head-to-tail and head-to-head structures, which are formed through the attack of a styrene-ended radical to both sides of the TSE monomers. It was demonstrated that both head-to-head and head-to-tail structures of ST-TSE dyads exist in the structure of copolymers of styrene and 2-phenyl-1,1-dicyanoethene (8). In all 1H -NMR spectra of copolymers, a broad signal region at 6.0–6.7 ppm is assigned with the phenyl ring protons of TSE, an adjacent higher broad signal region at 6.7–7.5 ppm is assigned with the phenyl ring protons of ST. The broad resonance in 3.5–2.2 ppm region is assigned to the overlapping resonances of the methine of TSE monomer unit in head-to-tail and head-to-head ST methine protons in TSE-ST dyads. The TSE $N(CH_3)_2$ protons absorb in 2.9–3.2 ppm range. A broad overlapping signals in 0.8–2.4 ppm are corresponding to ST methylene and methine protons in ST-ST dyads.

The ^{13}C -NMR spectra also support the suggested skeletal structure of copolymers. The assignments of the peaks are as follows (ppm): 170–173 (C=O), 145, 120–134 (aromatic carbons), 116 (CN), 68–70 (C-O), 42–49 (methine, methylene and quaternary carbons), 36 ($N(CH_3)_2$). The IR and NMR data showed that these are true copolymers, composed with both ST and TSE monomer units.

The copolymers prepared in the present work are all soluble in acetone, methylene chloride and insoluble in methanol, petroleum ether. High T_g of the copolymers (Table 1) in comparison with that of polystyrene ($T_g = 95^\circ C$) indicates substantial decrease of chain mobility of the copolymer due to high dipolar character of the structural unit. Information on the decomposition of the

copolymers was obtained from thermogravimetric analysis. The decomposition of all copolymers in nitrogen occurs rapidly in a one-step degradation in the 300–450°C range. The decomposition products were not analyzed in this study, and the mechanism has yet to be investigated.

4 Conclusions

Halogen ring-disubstituted 2-cyano-N, N-dimethyl-3-phenyl-2-propenamides were prepared via a base-catalyzed condensation of appropriate disubstituted benzaldehydes and *N,N*-dimethyl cyanoacetamide. The copolymerization of TSE with styrene resulted in statistical copolymers, with the TSE mole percent in the range 18–32%. The compositions of the copolymers were calculated from nitrogen analysis and the structures were analyzed by IR, ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR. High glass transition temperatures of the copolymers, in comparison with that of polystyrene, indicate a substantial decrease in the chain mobility of the copolymers due to the high dipolar character of the trisubstituted ethylene monomer unit. The gravimetric analysis indicated that the copolymers decompose in the range 300–450°C.

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