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SYNTHESIS OF A NEW POLYMER POLY(4'-VINYLDIBENZO-14-CROWN-4)

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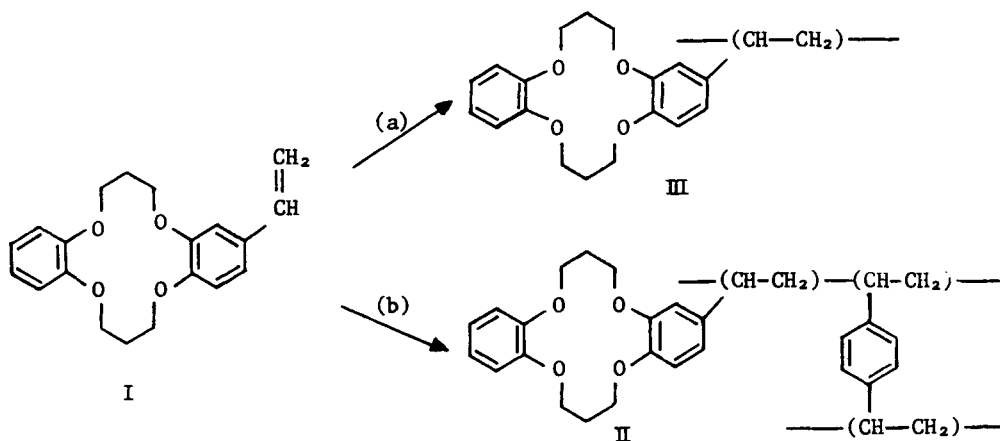
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SYNTHESIS OF A NEW POLYMER POLY(4'-VINYL-DIBENZO-14-CROWN-4)

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(12/12/83)

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Neutral macroheterocycles such as crown ethers and cryptands are noted not only for their powerful chelation of alkali and alkaline earth cations,¹ but also for their interaction with transition metal cations² and ions of the lanthanides series.³ However, in order to facilitate their retrieval and to increase their effectiveness, the often toxic and rather expensive macrocycles have been incorporated into the backbone of an insoluble polymeric network^{4,5} or attached as pendant moieties to the polymer chain.⁶⁻⁸ We have reported the synthesis of dibenzo-14-crown-4 and derivatives,⁹⁻¹² which form 1:1 stable complexes with lithium ion.¹²⁻¹⁴ We herein describe the syntheses of polymers from 4'-vinyl-dibenzo-14-crown-4 (I) (Scheme 1).¹¹ Catechol was converted to *O*-bis[(3-hydroxypropyl)oxy]benzene; chlorination of the latter with thionyl chloride followed by reaction with 4-formylcatechol gave the corresponding aldehyde. Treatment



Reagents: (a) AIBN, dry benzene, at 65°, 24 hrs. (b) 8% DVB, AIBN, dry benzene, at 65°, 24 hrs.

of the resulting aldehyde with methylmagnesium iodide gave the desired secondary alcohol, which was then dehydrated over alumina coated with sulfuric acid to yield I.

Polymerization of I was conducted in benzene with AIBN. The results are listed in the Table. The reaction was monitored by the disappearance of the characteristic vinyl bands at 1620 cm^{-1} (C=C stretch) and 1340 cm^{-1} are listed in the Table. The reaction was monitored by the disappearance of the characteristic vinyl bands at 1620 cm^{-1} (C=C stretch) and 1340 cm^{-1} (C-H bending) in the IR spectrum and by the absence of vinyl signal at δ 5.00 and 5.42 in $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum. The average molecular weight of polymer could be increased by reducing the amount of AIBN under the same conditions (see Table). In the copolymerization of I with divinylbenzene (DVB), the monomer was polymerized to give a copolymer, cross-linked poly(4-vinyldibenzo-14-crown-4) (II), with broader dispersity or larger \bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n ratio in gel permeation chromatography (GPC) and with smaller average molecular weight than those of III. These powdered polymers did not display any crystallinity.¹⁵

The choice of solvents has also been investigated. Benzene was found to be superior to 1,4-dioxane, carbon tetrachloride (CCl_4), tetrahydrofuran (THF), or toluene. The pure polymers could be obtained by recrystallization from a co-solvent of chloroform-hexane to remove the unreacted monomer.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Cross-linked Poly(4'-vinyldibenzo-14-crown-4)(II).- A solution of I (1.712 g, 5.25 mmol), divinylbenzene (DVB, 0.149 g, 1.143 mmol) and dry benzene (90 ml) was thoroughly degassed, added to a 150 ml flask containing α,α' -azobisisobutyronitrile (AIBN, 0.0324 g, 0.198 mmol); the flask was cooled

TABLE. Polymerization of I

Polymer	AIBN, % by mol	DVB, % by wt	Yield ^a %	M _n ^b (x10 ³)	M _w /M _n ^c	mp. (°C)
II	3	8	53	3	2.44	139-150
III	3	0	56	5	1.34	120-124
III	2	0	52	7.3	1.63	140-146

a. Wt% against monomer charged.

b. By vapor pressure osmometry in toluene at 50°.

c. By GPC with THF at 30° as eluent and μ -styrigel 10⁵, 10⁴, 10³, 500 Å column and by using calibration curve for polystyrene.

in liquid nitrogen and then sealed under nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was shaken at 65° for 24 hrs (shaker bath). After cooling to room temperature, the solution was slowly poured into 1 l. of *n*-hexane and the resulting white precipitate was collected and recrystallized from a mixture of 1:3 (V/V) chloroform-hexane to remove the unreacted monomer. The solid was finally dried under vacuum to give 0.986 g (53%) of II as a white powder. IR(KBr): 3060, 3030, 2920, 2870, 1600, 1500, 1470, 1430, 1390, 1260, 1130, 1160, 740 cm⁻¹; ¹HNMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.74-2.50 (broad, PhCHCH₂- and -O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O-), 3.68-4.52 (broad, -O-CH₂-CH₂-), 5.89-7.26 (broad aromatic H).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₂O₄)_{0.785}(C₈H₁₀)_{0.215}: C, 74.98; H, 7.02

Found: C, 75.09; H, 6.93

Poly(4'-vinylidibenzo-14-crown-4)(III).- A solution of I (1.828 g, 5.6 mmol) in dry benzene (90 ml) was added to a 150 ml flask containing AIBN (0.0284 g, 0.173 mmol) and polymerized as described in the preceding procedure to yield 1.02 g (56%) of white powdered product (III). IR(KBr): 3060, 3030, 2920, 2870, 1600, 1500, 1470, 1430, 1390, 1260, 1130, 1060, 740 cm⁻¹; ¹HNMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.74-2.50 (broad, 7, PhCHCH₂- and -O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O-), 3.67-4.52 (broad, 8, -O-CH₂-CH₂-), 5.89-7.05 (broad 7, aromatic H).

Anal. Calcd for $(C_{20}H_{22}O_4)_x$: C, 73.59; H, 6.80

Found: C, 73.56; H, 6.75

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