

Poly(3,6-carbazolymethylene)s with flourinated and nonflourinated tapered building side groups

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Summary

The syntheses of two different poly(3,6-carbazolymethylene)s are described. The polycondensation reaction proceeds without any crosslinking and the obtained polymers were characterised by elemental analysis $^1\text{H-NMR}$, $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ and $^{19}\text{F-NMR}$. DSC studies evidenced that one of the obtained polymers, i.e. poly[N-(3,4,5-tris(4-perfluorooctylbutyl-1-yloxy)benzyl)carbazole] shows liquid crystalline behaviour and X-ray analysis pointed to a hexagonal columnar mesophase.

Introduction

Since Bruck (1) first reported on the syntheses of poly(3,6-carbazolymethylene)s by polycondensation of N-alkyl carbazoles with formaldehyde or by acid catalysed polycondensation of N-ethyl-3-hydroxymethylcarbazole there have been published several papers concerning the synthesis of poly(3,6-carbazolymethylene)s (2),(3),(4),(5) mainly concentrating on the polycondensation with formaldehyde. These polymers gained interest in different areas due to their remarkable properties for redox systems, electrochromism and Langmuir-Blodgett films. Most of the cited authors obtained, however, crosslinked materials from which they extracted the soluble portion. These polymers were characterized by their $^1\text{H-NMR}$, $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$, UV, IR and fluorescence spectra. Only in two of the papers are presented informations concerning the thermal characteristics or phase transitions of the obtained polymers. Bruck (1) reported for an amorphous poly(N-ethylcarbazolymethylene) (DP=9) a "melting point" (probable the beginning of degradation) of 164°C , whereas Watarari (2) indicated 158°C for the same polymer beside the values for four other polymers with longer alkyl chains. But both authors do not indicate experimental details concerning the thermal characterization. Jeneke et al. (3), on the other hand, reported glass transition temperatures for poly(N-methylcarbazolymethylene)s situated between 100°C (DP=13) and 150°C (DP=25). It seemed to be of interest to combine the unique electrochemical properties of poly(3,6-carbazolymethylene)s with liquid crystalline behaviour. Taking into account that some authors suggested the decreasing tendency towards crosslinking with an increasing bulkiness of the substituent on the carbazole nitrogen, the approach of Percec et al. (6) of using tapered building sideblocks to realize self assembled supramolecular architectures seemed to be well worth to be tested, because it should be possible to reach by this way simultaneous both goals, i.e. to avoid crosslinking and to induce mesomorphic behaviour.

Experimental

A. Materials

Commercial methylgallate (97%; Fluka) was recrystallized from methanol. (4-perfluoro-octyl)butane-1-ol was synthesized according to literature (7). The synthesis of paratoluenesulfonic-acid (4-perfluoro-octyl)butyl-1-ester will be described elsewhere.(8)

All other starting materials and solvents are commercially available and were used as received.

B. Techniques

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300MHz) as well as $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75,4MHz) and $^{19}\text{F-NMR}$ (282MHz) were recorded on a Bruker IFS88 spectrometer at 20°C in CDCl_3 . Hexafluorobenzene was used as an internal standard for the $^{19}\text{F-NMR}$ and the respective chemical shifts are reported assuming CFCl_3 as zero point of the scale. Thermal transitions were measured on a Perkin Elmer DSC-7. First order transitions temperatures were attributed to the minima or maxima of the endothermic and exothermic peaks, respectively, observed during the second heating and cooling scans. T_g values refer to the temperature of half c_p increase.

Rates were $10^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$ in all cases. The melting points of the intermediate compounds were determined visual on the Büchi 510 Melting Point Determinator. GPC measurements were carried out in CHCl_3 using polystyrene standards for calibration.

C. Syntheses of the monomers

The synthesis routes are outlined in scheme 1. Etherification of methylgallate with the corresponding alkylbromide or tosylate results in 3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)methylbenzoate and 3,4,5-tris(n-dodecane-1-yloxy)methylbenzoate, respectively.

Reduction with LiAlH_4 in THF and subsequent chlorination with SOCl_2 in CH_2Cl_2 or CF_3CCl_3 , using DMF as catalyst, gives 3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)benzylchloride respective 3,4,5-tris(n-dodecane-1-yloxy)benzylchloride. The subsequent alkylation of carbazole was executed in the two phase system benzene / 50% NaOH (10). The N-alkylated carbazoles were formylated with a tenfold excess of DMF / POCl_3 at 90 °C. The obtained aldehydes were reduced with NaBH_4 in 2-propanol to the desired N-(3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)benzyl)- and N-(3,4,5-tris(n-dodecane-1-yloxy)benzyl)-3-hydroxymethylcarbazoles. For polymerization several solvents and catalysts have been tested. Best results were obtained by heating the monomer solution in THF / trifluoroacetic anhydride with ZnCl_2 .

1) 3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)methylbenzoate (1a) and 3,4,5-tris(n-dodecane-1-yloxy)methylbenzoate (1b)

3,6g (19,5 mmol) methylgallate, 41,6g (64,4-mmol) p-toluenesulfonic-acid(4-perfluoro-octyl)butane-1-ester (or bromo-n-dodecane) and 20g (145 mmol) K_2CO_3 were suspended in 250 ml DMF and stirred under N_2 over night at 70°C. The reaction mixture was poured into water. A THF-solution of the product was filtered over basic Al_2O_3 and then recrystallized from EtOH. Yield : 28g (90%)

3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)methylbenzoate,

mp (visual) = 60-63,5°C; (Lit (7): 59-63,5°C)

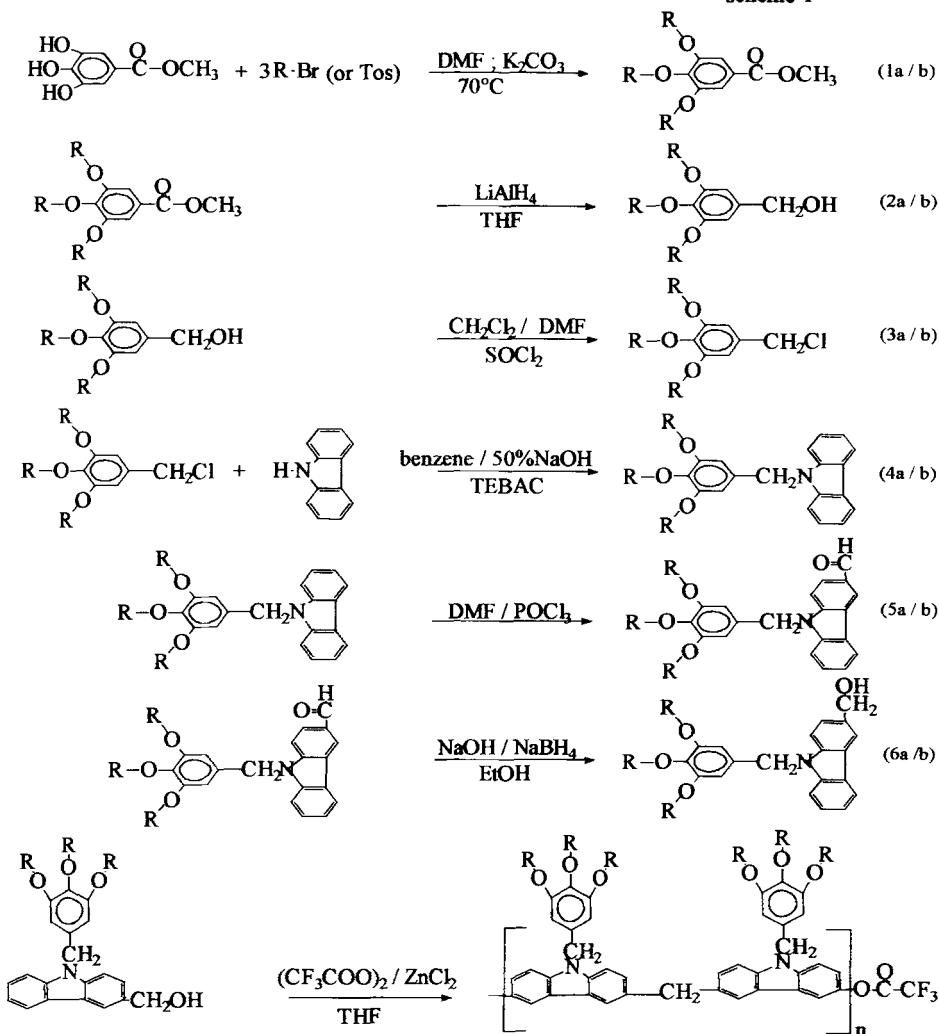
$^1\text{H-NMR}$: 7,3 (s; arom.; 2H), 4,1 (2t; O- CH_2 ; 6H), 3,9 (s; O- CH_3 ; 3H), 2,3-2,0 (m ; CH_2CF_2 ; 6H), 2,0-1,7 (m; O- $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2$; 12H);

3,4,5-tris(n-dodecane-1-yloxy)methylbenzoate; mp (visual) = 42°C; (Lit (9): 43°C)

$^1\text{H-NMR}$: 7,3 (s; arom.; 2H), 4,1 (2t; O- CH_2 ; 6H), 3,9 (s; O- CH_3 ; 3H), 1,9-1,2 (m ; CH_2 ; 60H), 0,9 (t; CH_3 ; 9H)

R = CF₃(CF₂)₇(CH₂)₄ (a) or CH₃(CH₂)₁₁ (b)

scheme 1



2) 3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)benzylalcohol (2a) and 3,4,5-tris(n-dodecane-1-yloxy)benzylalcohol (2b)

These compounds were obtained by reduction of the corresponding methylesters with LiAlH₄ in THF. Excess LiAlH₄ was quenched with H₂O / NaOH, the inorganic salts being then filtered. The solvent was removed and the products were used without further purification.

3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)benzylalcohol; mp (vizual) = 94°C

¹H-NMR: 6,6 (s; arom.; 2H), 4,6 (d; CH₂OH; 2H), 4,1 (t; O-CH₂ ortho; 4H), 3,9 (t; O-CH₂ para; 2H), 2,3-2,0 (m; CH₂CF₂; 6H), 2,0-1,7 (m; O-CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CF₂; 12H)

3,4,5-tris(n-dodecane-1-yloxy)benzylalcohol; mp (vizual) = 48-50°C

¹H-NMR : 6,5 (s; arom.; 2H), 4,6 (CH₂OH), 4,0 (2t; O-CH₂; 6H), 1,9-1,2 (m ; CH₂; 60H), 0,9 (t; CH₃; 9H)

¹³C-NMR : 152,8 (gallate 3), 136,9 (gallate 4), 136,0 (gallate 1), 104,9 (gallate 2), 73,1 (para -OCH₂), 68,7 (ortho -OCH₂), 65,0 (CH₂OH), 32-22,3 (CH₂), 13,8 (CH₃)

3) 3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)benzylchloride (3a) and 3,4,5-tris(n-dodecane-1-yloxy)benzylchloride (3b)

The benzylalcohols were dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ or CF₃CCl₃ together with a catalytic amount of DMF. Then SOCl₂ was added dropwise and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1h. Subsequently the reaction mixtures were concentrated and precipitated into methanol. The products were after that filtered and dried under vacuum.

3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)benzylchloride; mp (vizual) = 94°C

¹H-NMR: 6,7 (s; arom.; 2H), 4,5 (s; CH₂Cl; 2H), 4,1 (t; O-CH₂ ortho; 4H), 3,9 (t; O-CH₂ para; 2H), 2,3-2,0 (m ; CH₂CF₂; 6H), 2,0-1,7 (m; O-CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CF₂ ; 12H)

3,4,5-tris(n-dodecane-1-yloxy)benzylchloride; mp (vizual) = 45-47°C

¹H-NMR : 6,7(s; arom.; 2H), 4,5 (s; CH₂Cl; 2H), 4,1 (t; O-CH₂ ortho; 4H), 3,9 (t; O-CH₂ para; 2H), 1,9-1,2 (m ; CH₂; 60H), 0,9 (t; CH₃; 9H)

4) N-(3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)benzyl)carbazole (4a) and N-(3,4,5-tris(n-dodecane-1-yloxy)benzyl)carbazole (4b) (10)

To a two phase system consisting of 100 ml benzene and 100 ml 50% NaOH, were added succesivly 0,7 g (0,12 mol) carbazole, 0,8 g TEBAC, and 4,75 g (0,12 mol) 3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)- respective 3,4,5-tris(n-dodecane-1-yloxy)benzylchloride. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 3h and then diluted with 100 ml benzene. The organic phase was seperated, washed with water, dried over MgSO₄ and filtered over acidic Al₂O₃. Benzene was removed. The crude products were recrystallized from 2-propanol.

N-(3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)benzyl)carbazole; mp (by DSC) = 109,8°C

¹H-NMR : 8,1 (d; carbazole 4,5; 2H), 7,4 (m; carbazole 1,2,7,8; 4H), 7,25 (m; carbazole ; 2H), 6,3 (s; arom. gallate; 2H), 5,4 (s; N-CH₂ ; 2H), 3,9 (t; para -OCH₂ ; 2H);

³J=6,5Hz), 3,8 (t;ortho -OCH₂; 4H), 2,3-2,0 (m; CH₂CF₂; 6H), 1,9 -1,4 (m; CH₂ ; 12H)

¹⁹F-NMR: -82,1 (s; CF₃; 9F), -115,5 (t; CH₂CF₂; ortho, 4F; J= 14,1Hz), -115,7 (s; CH₂CF₂;para,2F); -123,0 (s CF₂; 18F), -123,9 (s CF₂; 6F), -124,5 (s; ortho CF₂; 4F), -124,6 (s; para CF₂; 2F), -127,3 (s CF₂; 6F)

N-(3,4,5-tris(n-dodecane-1-yloxy)benzyl)carbazole; mp (byDSC) = 56,12°C

¹H-NMR : 8,1 (d; carbazole 4,5; 2H), 7,4 (m; carbazole 1,2,7,8; 4H), 7,25 (m; carbazole ; 2H), 6,3 (s; arom. gallate; 2H), 5,4 (s; N-CH₂ ; 2H), 3,9 (t; para -OCH₂ ; 2H), 3,8(t;ortho -OCH₂; 4H), 1,9-1,2 (m; CH₂ ; 60H), 0,9 (t; CH₃ ; 9H)

¹³C-NMR : 153,0 (gallate 3), 140,9 (carbazole 9a and 8a), 137,3 (gallate 4), 132,1 (gallate 1), 125,8 (carbazole 2 and 7), 123,0 (carbazole 4a and 4b), 120,3 (carbazole 4 and 5), 119,1 (carbazole 3 and 6), 109,5 (carbazole 1 and 8), 104,7 (gallate 2), 73,1 (para -OCH₂), 68,8 (ortho -OCH₂), 48,5 (NCH₂), 32-22,3 (CH₂), 13,9 (CH₃)

5) N-(3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)benzyl)-3-carboxycarbazole (5a) and N-(3,4,5-tris(n-dodecane-1 yloxy)benzyl)-3-carboxycarbazole (5b)

3,91 g (25,5 mmol) POCl₃ were added dropwise under stirring to 1,95 g (26,67 mmol) DMF. After that 4,2 g (2,4 mmol) N-(3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl- (resp. n-dodecane)-1-yloxy)-benzyl)carbazole were added once. The reaction mixture was stirred for

6h between 90 - 100°C. The viscous reaction mixture was poured into a sodium acetate buffer and stirred over night. The product was filtered and again stirred in fresh sodium acetate buffer for one day. Then the product was filtered once more and dried under vacuum. The crude products were recrystallized from acetone.

N-(3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)benzyl)-3-carboxycarbazole

¹H-NMR : 10,1 (s; H-C=O; 1H), 8,7 (s; carbazole 5; 1H), 8,2 (d; carbazole 5; 2H), 8,0 (d; carbazole 4; 2H); 7,6-7,2 (m; carbazole 1,7,8; 3H), 6,3 (s; aromat.gallate; 2H), 5,4 (s; N-CH₂; 2H), 3,9 (para -OCH₂; 2H), 3,8 (t; ortho -OCH₂; 4H), 2,3-2,0 (m; CH₂CF₂; 6H), 1,9 -1,4 (m; CH₂; 12H)

N-(3,4,5-tris(*n*-dodecan-1-yloxy)benzyl)-3-carboxycarbazole

¹H-NMR : 10,1 (s; H-C=O; 1H), 8,7 (s; carbazole 5; 1H), 8,2 (d; carbazole 5; 2H), 8,0 (d; carbazole 4; 2H); 7,6-7,2 (m; carbazole 1,7,8; 3H), 6,3 (s; aromat.gallate; 2H), 5,4 (s; N-CH₂; 2H), 3,9 (para -OCH₂; 2H), 3,8 (t; ortho -OCH₂; 4H), 1,9-1,2 (m; CH₂; 60H), 0,9 (t; CH₃; 9H)

6) N-(3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)benzyl)-3-hydroxymethylcarbazole (6a) and N-(3,4,5-tris(*n*-dodecane-1-yloxy)benzyl)-3-hydroxymethylcarbazole (6b)

To a suspension of N-(3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-(resp. *n*-dodecane)-1-yloxy)-benzyl)-3-carboxycarbazole in 2-propanol was added at 40°C dropwise a solution of NaBH₄ in 10% NaOH. Ten minutes after the addition was complete the reaction mixture was refluxed for 4h. The products were recrystallized from ethanol.

N-(3,4,5-tris(4-perfluoro-octylbutyl-1-yloxy)benzyl)-3-hydroxymethylcarbazole;

mp (by DSC) = 106-108°C

¹H-NMR : 8,1 (d; carbazole 4,5; 2H), 7,5-7,1 (m; carbazole 1,2,5,7,8; 6H), 6,3 (s; aromat. gallate; 2H), 5,4 (s; N-CH₂; 2H), 4,9 (s; CH₂OH; 2H), 3,9 (t; para -OCH₂; 2H), 3,8 (t; ortho -OCH₂; 4H), 2,2-1,9 (m; CH₂CF₂; 6H), 1,9 -1,4 (m; CH₂; 12H)

¹³C-NMR : 153,1 (gallate3), 141,1 and 140,4 (carbazole 9a and 8a), 137,1 (gallate4), 132,9 (carbazole 3), 132,0 (gallate1), 126,0 and 125,7 (carbazole 2 and 7), 124,2 and 123,4 (carbazole 4a and 4b), 121,5 (carbazole 6), 119,5 (carbazole 4 and 5), 110,7 (carbazole 1 and 8), 104,8 (gallate2), 72,5 (-OCH₂ para), 68,3 (-OCH₂ ortho), 65,4 (CH₂OH), 30,6 (t; CH₂CF₂; J=22,6Hz), 30,3(-OCH₂CH₂ para), 29,6(-OCH₂CH₂ ortho), 17,0 (-OCH₂CH₂CH₂)

Elemental analysis: calcd (for C₅₆H₃₈ F₅₁ N O₄): C 38,26%, H 2,18%, N 0,8%

found : C 37,57%, H 2,04%, N 0,95%

N-(3,4,5-tris(*n*-dodecane-1-yloxy)benzyl)-3-hydroxymethylcarbazole;

mp (by DSC) = 79-81°C

¹H-NMR : 8,1 (d; carbazole 4,5; 2H), 7,5-7,1 (m; carbazole 1,2,5,7,8; 6H), 6,3 (s; aromat. gallate; 2H), 5,4 (s; N-CH₂; 2H), 4,9 (s; CH₂OH; 2H), 3,9 (t; para -OCH₂; 2H), 3,8 (t; ortho -OCH₂; 4H), 1,9-1,2 (m; CH₂; 60H), 0,9 (t; CH₃; 9H)

¹³C-NMR : 153,1 (gallate 3), 140,8 and 140,1 (carbazole 9a and 8a), 137,2 (gallate4), 132,0 and 131,7 (carbazole 3 and gallate 1), 125,5 and 125,2 (carbazole 2 and 7), 122,7 (carbazole 4a and 4b), 120,0 (carbazole 6), 119,0 (carbazole 4 and 5), 108,7 (carbazole 1 and 8), 104,6 (gallate 2), 73,1 (-OCH₂ para), 68,7 (-OCH₂ ortho), 65,4 (CH₂OH), 46,6 (NCH₂), 32,7-22,4 (CH₂), 13,8 (CH₃)

Elemental analysis: calcd (for C₅₆H₈₉ N O₄) : C 80,04%, H 10,67%, N 1,67%

found : C 78,52%, H 10,30%, N 1,52

enthalpy of this first order transition is of 0,34 kcal/mol repeating unit. The poly-6b and the 1:1 copolymer show only a glass transition. The fact that the Tg of the 1:1 copolymer is higher (around 50°C) than of the two homopolymers (situated around 20°C) suggests that the glass temperatures may be related to the aliphatic and/or fluorocarbon tails. In the the copolymer the aliphatic and fluorocarbon tails tend to segregate releasing the the rotational mobility characteristic of Tg only at higher temperature.

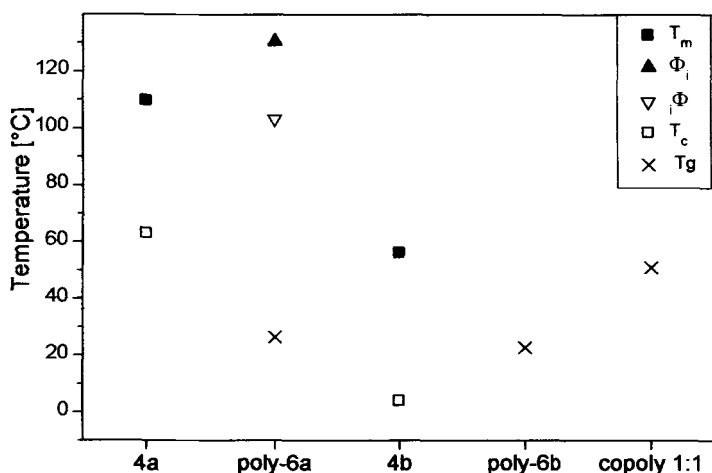


Fig.1 Thermal transitions of 4a / 4b and polymers

X-ray

Table 1 lists the d-spacings obtained from powder diffraction spectra of the poly-6a at room temperature. Beneath two strong reflections at 34,7 Å and 5,2 Å are observed two weaker reflections at 17,6 Å and 13,1 Å, respectively, and one very weak at 11,6 Å. This is a strong evidence for a hexagonal columnar mesophase (12)(7). A detailed discussion of the structure will be presented later.(11)

Tabl. 1

	d_{100}	d_{110} ($d_{100} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$)	d_{200} ($d_{100} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{4}}$)	d_{210} ($d_{100} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{7}}$)	d_{300} ($d_{100} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{9}}$)	
Poly-6b	34,7 Å	17,6 Å	–	13,1 Å	11,6 Å	5,2 Å

Conclusions

The syntheses of soluble poly(3,5-carbazolylmethylene)s were realized. The polymerization proceeds without any crosslinking. Elemental analysis, ¹³C-NMR and ¹H-NMR data confirm the proposed structure and are in accord with literature data for other poly(3,5-carbazolylmethylene)s (2), (3), (5). The poly-6a shows by DSC a liquid crystalline phase which undergoes isotropization at 130°C. Preliminary X-ray results

offer strong evidence for a columnar hexagonal phase (12). It is well known that poly-(3,5-carbazolylmethylene)s form reversible one electron redox systems (5). A study concerning the presence of a mesophase on the redox behaviour is in progress. Furthermore we will report in a following paper, that it is possible to induce mesomorphic behaviour in the amorphous copolymer by selective complexation of fluorinated or nonfluorinated sequences of the copolymer with an electron-acceptor based on 3,5 dinitrobenzoic acid.

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