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The Prognostication of Columnar Mesophases - Synthesis and Mesomorphism of Some Porphyrin Derivatives

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Abstract: The existence of columnar mesophases (CM) for a new series of the porphyrin derivatives is predicted. With this purpose, the computation of molecular parameters (K, K_c , K_s , K_p , M_{mb} , M_r) is carried out for eighty five molecules, including materials with a small number of peripheral substitutes. For verification of the existence of CM in the series of materials examined, some of them are synthesized and their mesomorphism is investigated.

Keywords: Porphyrin, mesomorphism, liquid crystals.

Introduction

Columnar mesophases were discovered in 1977 [1]. The synthesis of porphyrin derivatives (polysubstituted phthalocyanine I and porphyrins II, III, Figure 1) with liquid crystal properties began to develop quickly, beginning in the 1980s [2,3]. A first example of such one-dimensional liquidcrystalline conductors, was reported in reference [3]. To date, about 200 such compounds with columnar and other types of mesophases have been synthesized [4-9]. Known methods of synthesis and purification of these materials are multistep and difficult.

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Therefore the problem of prognosis of the existence of columnar mesophases, based on the analysis of quantitative differences in a molecular structure of mesogenic and nonmesogenic compounds therefore is an interesting topic. Such an approach is considered in references [9-13]. To continue previous work in this direction, we consider here a new series of materials **I** - **III** of known architectures with detected (investigated) mesomorphic properties and also some hypothetical molecules not yet synthe-sized.

Results and Discussion

The basic research method is a calculation and analysis of values of molecular parameters (MP). The technique calculation did not differ from that proposed in [9-13]. Structures of molecules were optimized by a molecular-mechanics method (MM+ force field). Optimization of geometry was finished at a gradient 0.01 kcal/mol. Three types of parameters were calculated: parameters which take into account anisometric properties of a molecule and its parts ($K = L_{max} / s$, $K_c = l_c / b_c$, $K_p = l_c / 2l_p$); parameters which is takes into account a ratio of the peripheral substituents in the nucleus to the maximum possible number of substituents ($K_s = N / N_{max}$, where N- number of the substituents in the molecule, N_{max} - the maximum possible number of substituents); parameters which take into account a ratio of weights of the central fragment and the peripheral substituents ($M_m = M_c / M_p$, $M_r = M_m \cdot K_s$). A numeric series received earlier [9-14] from the MP analysis of more than 500 compounds with CM presence or absence served as a discogenic criterion for the tested molecules. This series looks as follows: K = 2.00 - 8.50, $K_c = 1.00 - 2.60$, $K_s = 0.25 - 1.00$, Kp = 0.25 - 0.70, $M_m = 0.30 - 0.80$, $M_r = 0.15$ - 0.80 [14], $K_{ar} = 0.080 - 0.300$ [9]. Structures which have a values of the parameters in these ranges are potentially discotic mesogens. It is necessary to note that the reliability of prediction is reduced as one approaches the boundaries of the ranges. It is revealed that if even one of the parameters falls outside the limits for this series, the probability of CM existence for such structures is very small.

Syntheses of the porphyrin derivatives was also used to test the results of the prognosis. Compounds





Scheme 2.

Step Ia was carried out using a modification of the method described in [17], the solvent DMF was replaced by methylethylketone. The method described in [19] was applied for synthesis of pyrrole derivatives (Step Ib), but the reaction time was increased. Synthesis of 3,3'-4,4'-dialkyl-5,5'-

dicarbethoxydipyrrolylmethane (Step Ic) was carried out using a known condensation method [18]. The techniques of isolation and purification of the final product differed from that given in [18]: the isolated ester was hydrolyzed by a 12% solution of NaOH in ethanol. Isolation was accomplished by adjusting the pH of the solution. Detailed synthetic techniques for the various stages of the reactions (Schemes 1 and 2) are listed at the end of the paper. The results of CM prognosis and mesomorphism of materials of a series I are considered in [9]. The information on the CM prognosis of this series is only for materials with four hydrophobic substitutes (Tables 1 and 2). In another paper [7] mesomorphism for only eight homologs of series I has been studied and supermolecular structures were not identified. All other materials are hypothetical (Tables 1 and 2).

Compound	K	Kp	Kar	M _m	M _r	Prognosis	Experiment
						СМ	[5]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	9.01	1.190	0.119	2.410	0.601	_	_
2	8.90	0.981	0.131	1.940	0.486	_	_
3	11.47	0.808	0.129	1.630	0.408	_	_
4	13.06	0.680	0.127	1.400	0.351	-	+
5	13.62	0.591	0.124	1.230	0.308	_	
6	13.96	0.520	0.118	1.099	0.275	_	
7	18.24	0.454	0.110	0.992	0.248	_	+
8	16.19	0.421	0.109	0.903	0.226	_	
9	17.76	0.384	0.105	0.829	0.207	-	+
10	20.08	0.353	0.101	0.766	0.192	_	
11	19.79	0.327	0.097	0.712	0.178	_	+
12	20.62	0.304	0.093	0.666	0.166	_	
13	23.11	0.285	0.090	0.625	0.156	_	
14	24.68	0.267	0.087	0.588	0.147	_	
15	24.36	0.252	0.084	0.556	0.139	_	
16	24.08	0.238	0.081	0.527	0.132	_	+

Table 1. Calculated values of molecular parameters of known and hypothetical structures of compound with structure **I** [9] ($\mathbf{R} = C(O)OC_nH_{2n+1}$; $\mathbf{M} = Cu$; $K_c = 1$, $K_s = 0.25$).

The shaded area - value of molecular parameters, based on which it is possible to refer to compounds as discotic mesogenes. None of structures defined by a parameter K falls into the division of compounds with CM.

Compound	К	Kp	Kar	M _m	$M_{ m r}$	Prognosis	Experiment
						СМ	[5]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	3.00	1.190	0.119	2.410	0.601	_	_
2	2.97	0.981	0.131	1.940	0.486	_	_
3	3.82	0.808	0.129	1.630	0.408	-	—
4	4.35	0.680	0.127	1.400	0.351	+	+
5	4.54	0.591	0.124	1.230	0.308	+	
6	4.65	0.520	0.118	1.099	0.275	+	
7	6.08	0.454	0.110	0.992	0.248	+	+
8	5.40	0.421	0.109	0.903	0.226	+	
9	5.92	0.384	0.105	0.829	0.207	+	+
10	6.70	0.353	0.101	0.766	0.192	+	
11	6.60	0.327	0.097	0.712	0.178	+	+
12	6.87	0.304	0.093	0.666	0.166	+	
13	7.70	0.285	0.090	0.625	0.156	+	
14	8.23	0.267	0.087	0.588	0.147	±	
15	8.12	0.252	0.084	0.556	0.139	±	
16	8.03	0.238	0.081	0.527	0.132	±	+

Table 2. Calculated values of molecular parameters of hypothetical and known structures **I** in view of their possible dimerization ($R = C(O)OC_nH_{2n+1}$; M = Cu; $K_c = 1$, $K_s = 0.25$).

Note: it can be seen that the entered single-error correction reduces in the best prognosis of CM for this series of compounds. The most valid area for the prognosis is for the homologs from 4 to 13.

Their molecular parameters are also computed and their values are shown in the Tables 3 and 4. The data in the mesophase prognosis and experimental data columns are essentially different for compounds I and II, III. If the prognosis for compounds II, III is well correlated to an experimental result, than such correlation with experiment for structures I is reached only on the assumption of dimerization of molecules, which are packed up in columns.

Table 3. Calculated values of molecular parameters of hypothetical structures **II** [(1, 3-5) R' = R'' = C_nH_{2n+1} , n = 5, 8, 10, 15; R = H; (6-10) R' = H, R = R'' = C_nH_{2n+1} , n = 5, 7, 8, 10, 15; (11, 12, 17-20) R' = H, R'' = C_nH_{2n+1} , n = 4, 8, 16, R = C_mH_{2m+1} , m = 6, 7, 11; (13 -16) R' = H, R'' = C_nH_{2n+1} , n = 4, 8, R = $OC_6H_4OC_9H_{19}$; (23) R' = H, R'' = C_8H_{17} , R = OC_6H_5 or C_6H_5 (27, 28); (25, 26, 29, 30) R' = H, R'' = C_nH_{2n+1} , n = 4, 8, R = $C_6H_4OC_9H_{19}$; (31-33) R' = H, R'' = OC_nH_{2n+1} , n = 7, 6, R = C_5H_{11} , C_6H_{13} ; **II** (34, 35) R = R' = C_nH_{2n+1} , n=1, 6, R'' = C_nH_{2n+1} , n = 2, 5; M = 2H or Zn; $K_c = 1.02$ -1.42; $K_s = 0.83$ (1-28), $K_s = 1.00$ (34-35)].

Compound	K	K _p	Kar	M _m	M _r	Prognosis CM	Experiment	T _{p.t.} , °C
1-5/5	4.66	0.479	0.316	0.617	0.514	+		-
3-8/8	2.04	0.336	0.270	0.406	0.337	+		
4-10/10	2.04	0.272	0.232	0.331	0.276	+		
5-15/15	2.12	0.184'	0.174	0.226	0.188'	_		
6-5/5	4.34	0.503	0.341	0.617	0.514	+		
7-7/7	4.43	0.381	0.295	0.458	0.382	+		
8-8/8	4.42	0.328	0.244	0.406	0.338	+		
9-10/10	4.62	0.267	0.226	0.331	0.276	+		
10-15/15	5.17	0.182'	0.171	0.226'	0.188'	_		
11-4/6	2.39	0.398	0.259	0.654	0.545	+		
12- Zn4/6	2.46	0.404	0.257	0.680	0.567	+		
13-4/OBC9	3.21	0.306	0.098'	0.578	0.482	_		
14-Zn4/OBC9	5.56	0.277	0.084	0.602	0.502	_		
15-8/ OBC 9	3.19	0.278	0.130	0.349	0.291	_		
16-Zn8/ OBC	3.07	0.292	0.140	0.364	0.303	_		
9								
17-8/7	4.58	0.329	0.236	0.429	0.357	+		
18-Zn8/7	2.19	0.297	0.230	0.445	0.371	+	CM?	Ι
19-8/11	1.97'	0.227'	0.172	0.369	0.308	_		
20-Zn8/11	1.94'	0.232'	0.176	0.384	0.320	_		
23-8/ OBC	1.94'	0.452	0.197	0.498	0.415	_		
25-4/ BC 9	3.64	0.219'	0.109'	0,522	0.435	—	—	187
26-Zn4/BC 9	3.55	0.227'	0.115'	0.520	0.430	_	—	160
27-8/BC	2.04	0.316	0.219	0.450	0.375	+		
28-Zn8/BC	1.86'	0.310	0.220	0.468	0.390	—	—	170
29-8/BC 9	2.72	0.223'	0.172	0.328	0.273	-	—	140
30-Zn8/BC9	2,40	0.275	0.165	0.315	0.262	+	+	to 115
31-07/07/6	3.28	0.433	0.366	0.444	0.370	+		
32-06/06/6	2.94	0.497	0.387'	0.502	0.419	-		
33-06/06/5	2.18	0.630	0.449'	0.520	0.433	-		
34-06/06/5/5	2.31	0.571	0.459'	0.442	0.442	_		

Note: The prime symbol (') marks parameter values that fall outside the limiting boundary values.

									_
N	n	K	Kp	K ar	M _m	$M_{\rm r}$	Prognosis	Experiment	$T_{p.t.}$
									°C
1	IIIa -1	4.15	0.586	0.123	0.567	0.189	+		
2	2	4.59	0.440	0.131	0.513	0.171	+		
3	3	4.38	0.406	0.133	0.462	0.156	+		
4	4	5.38	0.347	0.118	0.432	0.144'	+, -		
5	5	5.87	0.317	0.114	0.400	0.134'	_	_	subl.
6	7	6.88	0.268	0.104	0.349	0.116'	_	_	300,
									destr.
7	5-Cu	4.11	0.342	0.127	0.481	0.160	+		
8	5-Zn	4.12	0.348	0.129	0.483	0.161	+		
9	5 -Ni	4.12	0.340	0.126	0.474	0.158	+		
10	5-Co	4.12	0.346	0.129	0.475	0.158	+		
11	IIIb -1	5.84	0.309	0.105	0.337	0.112'	_		
12	2	6.07	0.285	0.102	0.317	0.106'	_		
13	8	8.13	0.192'	0.083	0.235'	0.078'	_		
14	9	8.38	0.182'	0.080	0.226'	0.075'	_		
16	10	8.72	0.173'	0.078	0.217'	0.072'	_		
17	11	8.71'	0.165'	0.075'	0.208'	0.069'	_		
18	12	9.20'	0.158'	0.073'	0.201'	0.067'	_	_	120
19	12-Cu	9.08'	0.160'	0.075'	0.241'	0.080'	_	_	165
20	12-Zn	9.02'	0.161'	0.074'	0.242'	0.081'	—		
21	12 -Ni	9.06'	0.160'	0.075'	0.238'	0.079'	_		
22	12-Co	9.04'	0.161'	0.075'	0.238'	0.079'	_	+	190-
									220

Table 4. Calculated values of molecular parameters of hypothetical structures **III** (**IIIa**: $R = C_6H_4$ -O(O)C-C_nH_{2n+1}, n = 1-12; **IIIb**: $R = C_6H_4O(O)C-C_6H_4OC_nH_{2n+1}$, n = 1-12; M = 2H, Cu, Ni, Zn, Co; M = 2H, Cu, Ni, Zn, Co).

Note: The prime symbol (') denotes parameter values that fall outside the established limiting boundary values.

More careful analysis of the data from Tables 1 and 4 shows the absence of correlation of the CM prognosis with experiment results for metallophthalocyanines and metalloporphyrins. For metal-free analogues a good agreement between prognosis and experiment is observed. It is necessary to note also, that the values of molecular parameters of metallocomplexes and their metal-free analogues differ from each other a little. Probably, in this case it is necessary to introduce additional molecular parameters, which would permit us to distinguish between metallocomplexes and metal-free analogues by their values. This will be a subject for future research.

Liquid-crystalline properties were determined using thermopolarizing optical microscopy and differential thermal analysis. The phases were identified by their characteristic textures [19]. Only two compounds synthesized by us (II-30-Zn8/BC9 - Table 3 and IIIb-12Co - Table 4), were liquidcrystalline. The rest are not mesomorphic. This correlates well with the results of prognosis.

According to our prognosis metalloporphyrin **IIIb**-12-Co is not mesomorphic, but upon observation with crossed polarization a sample melting at $T = 190^{\circ}$ C shows an ungeometrical texture, which is kept up to $T = 220^{\circ}$ C. Such texture is also observed for copper carboxylate - columnar liquid crystals [15]. Near phase transition to isotropic liquid finger-like species are observed that is characteristic for columnar hexagonal packing [16] (Fig. 2a).



Figure 2a. Finger-like texture of compound **IIIb**-12Co near to phase transition - a mesophase - isotropic liquid, 219°C, crossed polarization, magnification x2000.



Figure 2b. Vitrification texture mesophase of compound IIIb-12Co at 140°C, crossed polarization.

Upon cooling a sample a considerable delay of transition in the mesophase with a simultaneous vit-

rification down to room temperatures is observed (Fig. 2b). For metal-free analogues the melting temperature is much lower than for a complex (Table 4). This points to a friability of its structure. This metal-free porphyrin was also investigated with the help of differential-thermal analysis. Upon heating a sample some solid phases of transitions, which are not visible at the thermopolarising studies are observed. Upon cooling these transitions are stretched out and weakly pronounced. In a cooling cycle under crossed polarization the growth of star-shaped of crystals with tetradic symmetry is seen. However by changing the cooling rate it is possible to fix a branchy dendritic texture, which is typical of an inclined rectangular columnar phase [20]. Therefore there is no unequivocal answer to the question of mesomorphism of compounds **IIIb-12**.

Conclusion

The proposed earlier method of predicting columnar mesophases applied to a large number of disklike molecules, can be used to consider the materials in this study, but for compounds with a small number of the peripheral substitutes, especially for metallocomplexes, it will be necessary to introduce of new additional parameters, which will take into account the peculiarities of their structures.

Experimental

General

The electronic absorption spectra (Table 5) were recorded on a Specord UV-VIS spectrophotometer. Elemental analysis was carried out using a PUMV device (Table 6). Texture observations were performed with a MIN-8 polarizing microscope equipped with a hot stage of an original design. Thermograms were taken using a Poulik derivatograph (Hungary)

Ν	Compound	λ_1 , / lg ϵ_1	λ_2 , / lg ϵ_2	λ_3 , / lg ϵ_3	λ_4 , / lg ϵ_4	Solvent
1	II -25-4/BC9	617/3.54	578/4.22	541/4.12	510/4.53	CHCl ₃
2	II -26-	617/3.89	-	546/4.18	-	۰°ـــــ ۰۰
	Zn4/BC9					
3	II-28-Zn8/BC	617/3.86	-	549/4.00	-	·'·''
4	II -29-8/BC9	637/3.58	588/4.09	543/4.00	513/4.47	hexane
5	II -30-	606/4.33	-	541/4.34	-	<'·ِــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
	Zn8/BC9					
6	III-a5	694/4.07	610/4.21	562/4.40	521/4.83	CH_2Cl_2
7	III-a7	667/4.28	606/4.22	562/4.55	524/4.74	۰,,۰,
8	III-b12	645/3.32	595/3.47	556/3.69	519/3.99	۰°ــــــ ۰۰
9	III-bCo12	-	549/4.28	439/5.11	418/5.16	·'·''
10	III-bCu12	-	549/3.79	-	417/4.97	·'·''

Table 5. Electronic absorption spectra of compounds II, III.

Ν	Compound Gross formula		MM	CALC, %	FOUND %
	_			C H N	C H N
1	II -18-Zn8/7	$C_{70}H_{102}N_4Zn$	1013.61	82.94 10.16 5.52	83.03 10.44 5.35
2	II -25-4BC9	$C_{58}H_{90}O_2N_4$	875.35	79.58 10.38 6.40	79.96 10.49 6.55
3	II -26-Zn4BC9	$C_{58}H_{90}O_2N_4Zn$	887.37	78.50 10.24 6.31	78.81 10.61 6.72
4	II -28-Zn8/BC	$C_{68}H_{82}N_4Zn$	1020.82	80.00 8.11 5.49	80.48 8.63 5.21
5	II -29-8/BC9	$C_{86}H_{130}O_2N_4$	1252.00	82.50 10.49 4.47	83.07 9.70 4.03
6	II -30-Zn8/BC9	$C_{86}H_{128}O_2N_4Zn$	1263.99	82.53 10.23 4.43	82.02 9.88 4.59
7	III-a5	$C_{68}H_{70}O_8N_4$	1071.33	76.23 6.60 5.23	76.01 6.06 5.03
8	III-a7	$C_{76}H_{86}O_8N_4$	1183.58	77.12 7.34 4.73	76.57 7.99 4.82
9	III-b12	$C_{120}H_{142}O_{12}N_4$	1832.47	78.65 7.83 3.06	79.92 8.37 3.20
10	III-bCo12	$C_{120}H_{140}O_{12}N_4Co$	1889.38	76.28 7.48 2.97	75.20 7.89 3.15
11	III-bCu12	$C_{120}H_{140}O_{12}N_4Cu$	1894.00	76.09 7.47 2.96	74.89 7.52 2.79

Table 6. Elemental analysis data of compounds II, III.

5,15-Dialkyl- or 5,15-diaryl-2,8,12,18-tetraalkyl-3,7,13,17-tetramethylporphyrin, zinc complexes (II-18, 26, 28, 30)

They were obtained by placing in a 20 mL ampoule dicarboxydipyrrolyl-methane (~0.2 g), dissolved in dry pyridine (8-12 mL) and dried zinc acetate (0.6 g). Then the appropriate aldehyde (1.1 mmol) and nitrobenzene (0.5 mL) were added. After the ampoule was sealed and heated in an oil-bath at $T=180^{\circ}$ C for a determined amount of time (ranging from 8 to 19 hours for different aldehydes). After cooling the ampoule was opened and the reaction mixture was poured onto a six-fold excess volume of water and boiled until the pyridine smell disappeared (1.5 - 2 hours), dried, dissolved in small quantity of dry chloroform and purified by chromatography on silica (40/100) eluting with a mixture of chloroform and benzene or hexane or sometimes only benzene to give the target compounds in isolated yields of ca. 10-30%. The zinc complexes were crystalline substances which varied in colour from red - brown, red - cherry up to violet. All them dissolve in chloroform, benzene, hexane and dichloromethane. Only compound **II**-29-8/BC9 (Table 3) dissolved well in alcohol. Other compounds of this series dissolved in alcohol upon heating. Compound 26-Zn4/BC9 and its metal-free analogue were isolated as violet lamellar crystals. All new compounds have been characterised by elemental microanalysis (Table 5) and electronic spectroscopy (Table 6).

5,10,15,20-Tetra(p-hydroxyphenyl)porphyrin (Scheme 2, step 1)

It was obtained by adding p-hydroxyphenylbenzaldehyde (0.072 mol) and pyrrole (5 mL). to 250 mL boiling propionic acid. The mixture was boiled for 0.5 hours and then cooled. The product was filtered off, washed with methanol and dried. The product was then purified by chromatography on silica with chloroform elution; isolated yields were 15-20%.

Tetra(p'-dodecyloxy-p-benzoyloxyphenyl)porphyrin - **III**b-12 (Scheme 2, step 2) was obtained by adding to a solution of 5,10,15,20-tetra(p-hydroxyphenyl)porphyrin (0.1g, 0.3 mmol) in pyridine (30 mL a solution of p-dodecyloxybenzoyl chloride (0.60 g, 1.8 mmol) in pyridine (50 mL)) over 0.5 hours. The mixture was stirred with heating for 6 h, cooled, diluted with 150 mL of water and then left overnight. The precipitate was filtered off, washed with water and dried, then sometimes also washed with hot ethanol for complete removal of acidic impurities. The remaining product was then purified by chromatography on aluminium oxide (neutral) with chloroform elution; isolated yields: 80%.

Copper and cobalt metallocomplexes IIIb-12Cu, IIIb-12Co

They were obtained by refluxing anhydrous chloride copper and acetate cobalt with compounds **III**b-12 in chloroform for 1-2 h. The end of reaction defined by spectroscopy based on the disappearance of the absorption bands of the metal-free porphyrin. Then the products were filtered, the filtrate was steamed and purified by chromatography on aluminium oxide (neutral) with chloroform, then with a mixture of hexane-chloroform; isolated yields were 60% The correct fractions were selected based on spectroscopic analyses.

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