

Title: Calix[4]arene-carbazole-containing polymers: Synthesis and properties

Author(s): Barata, Patrícia D.²; Costa, Alexandra I.²; Prata, José V.¹

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Abstract: New highly fluorescent calix[4]arene-containing phenylene-alt-ethynylene-3,6- and 2,7-carbazolyene polymers (CALIX-PPE-CBZs) have been synthesized for the first time and their photophysical properties evaluated. Both polymers were obtained in good isolated yields (70-84%), having M-w ranging from 7660-26,700 g mol⁻¹. It was found that the diethynyl substitution (3,6- or 2,7-) pattern on the carbazole monomers markedly influences the degree of polymerization. The amorphous yellow polymers are freely soluble in several nonprotic organic solvents and have excellent film forming abilities. TG/DSC analysis evidences similar thermal behaviors for both polymers despite their quite different molecular weight distributions and main-chain connectivities (T-g, in the range 83-95 degrees C and decomposition onsets around 270 degrees C). The different conjugation lengths attained by the two polymers dictates much of their photophysical properties. Thus, whereas the fully conjugated CAUX-PPE-2,7-CBZ has its emission maximum at 430 nm (E-g = 2.84 eV; Phi(F) = 0.62, CHCl₃), the 3,6-linked counterpart (CALIX-PPE-3,6-CBZ) fluoresces at 403 nm with a significant lower quantum yield (E-g = 3.06 eV; Phi(F) = 0.31, CHCl₃). The optical properties of both polymers are predominantly governed by the intrachain electronic properties of the conjugated backbones owing to the presence of calix[4]arenes along the polymer chain which disfavor significant interchain interactions, either in fluid- or solid-state. (C) 2012 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

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Reprint Address: Prata, JV (reprint author), Inst Politecn Lisboa, Inst Super Engn Lisboa, Dept Engn Quim, Lab Quim Organ, R Conselheiro Emídio Navarro 1, P-1959007 Lisbon, Portugal.

Addresses:

1. Inst Politecn Lisboa, Inst Super Engn Lisboa, Dept Engn Quim, Lab Quim Organ, P-1959007 Lisbon, Portugal
2. Inst Politecn Lisboa, Inst Super Engn Lisboa, Ctr Invest Engn Quim & Biotecnol, P-1959007 Lisbon, Portugal

E-mail Address: jvprata@deq.isel.ipl.pt

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