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## Synthesis and properties of novel soluble fluorinated polyamides containing pyridine and sulfone moieties $\stackrel{\mbox{\tiny{\%}}}{=}$



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#### ABSTRACT

A new diamine containing pyridine and trifluoromethylphenyl groups, 4-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2,6bis(4-aminophenyl)pyridine, was synthesized and used in the preparation of the fluorinated polyamides containing pyridine and sulfone moieties with inherent viscosities of 0.70–1.06 dL g<sup>-1</sup> by the low temperature polycondensation with 4,4'-sulfonyl dibenzoyl chloride, 4,4'-[sulfonyl bis(4-phenyleneoxy)]dibenzoyl chloride, 3,3'-[sulfonyl bis(4-phenyleneoxy)]dibenzoyl chloride and 4,4'-[sulfonyl bis(2,6dimethyl-1,4-phenyleneoxy)]dibenzoyl chloride in *N*,*N*-dimethylacetamide (DMAc) solution containing pyridine, respectively. All the polymers are amorphous and readily soluble in organic solvents such as DMAc, *N*-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone (NMP), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, pyridine (Py), and tetrahydrofuran at room temperature. The resulting polymers showed glass transition temperatures between 280 and 318 °C and 10% weight loss temperatures ranging from 485 °C to 516 °C, and char yields at 800 °C higher than 50% in nitrogen. All polymers could be casted into transparent, flexible and strong films from DMAc solutions with tensile strengths of 72–81 MPa, elongations at break of 12–15%, and tensile moduli of 1.8–2.1 GPa. These polymers had low dielectric constants of 3.40–3.51 (1 MHz), low moisture absorption in the range of 1.08–1.28%, and high transparency with an ultraviolet–visible absorption cut-off wavelength in the 374–382 nm range.

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structures [20–23], have been used to modify the polymer properties by the design and preparation of new monomers. Among these approaches, introduction of fluorine groups into the

backbone or side chain of polyamides has been considered as one

of the most effective methods and attracted more and more

attention from both academia and industry because the introduc-

tion of fluorine groups can provide not only enhanced solubility

but also other merits such as good thermal oxidative stability, good

electrical insulating and dielectric properties, low water uptake

and so on [24–29]. In recent years, there have been some reports

#### 1. Introduction

It is well known that aromatic polyamides are characterized as highly thermally stable polymers because of their combination of excellent thermal, mechanical and chemical properties [1–6]. However, most of them have high melting or softening temperature and are insoluble in most of organic solvents partly because of the strong interchain interaction. These properties make them generally intractable or difficult to process, thus limiting their applications. To overcome these limitations, structural modification of the polymer backbones, such as the introduction of flexible bonds (e.g.,  $-O_-$ ,  $-SO_2-$ , etc.) [7–9], bulky pendant [10–13] or cardo groups [14–16], unsymmetrical [17–19] or non-coplanar

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flexible -13] or oplanar -14 -15] or oplanar -15] or -15] or -15] or -16] o

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polyamides [16,27,28], we herein report several organosoluble aromatic polyamides containing pyridine moieties and 4-trifluoromethylphenyl substituents, along with flexible sulfone or sulfone ether linkages in the polymer main chains, based on a novel aromatic diamine monomer, 4-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2,6-bis(4-aminophenyl)pyridine. The incorporation of the rigid pyridine heterocyclic ring units, bulky 4-trifluoromethylphenyl pendant groups and flexible sulfone linkages into the polymer backbone would be resulted in great benefits for improving polymer solubility and electrical and dielectric performance while maintaining thermal stability. In addition to the solubility, thermal, mechanical, optical and electric properties, the water uptakes of the obtained fluorinated poly(pyridine sulfone amide)s are also studied in this article.

#### 2. Results and discussion

#### 2.1. Monomer synthesis

As shown in Scheme 1, the new aromatic diamine monomer, 4-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2,6-bis(4-aminophenyl)pyridine (2) was prepared by a two-step synthetic route. Firstly, the dinitro compound (1) containing pyridine heterocyclic and 4-trifluoromethylphenyl pendant group, was synthesized via a modified Chichibabin pyridine synthesis [34] from 4-trifluoromethylbenzaldehyde and 4'-nitroacetophenone in the presence of ammonium acetate. The diamine 2 was then obtained by catalytic hydrogenation of the dinitro compound 1 using hydrazine hydrate and Pd/C catalyst in refluxing ethanol.

The structures of **1** and **2** were confirmed by elemental analysis, FTIR and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy. In the FTIR spectrum of the dinitro compound 1 (Fig. 1A), representative absorptions appearing around 1522 and 1350 cm<sup>-1</sup> were due to symmetric and asymmetric stretching of nitro groups which disappeared after reduction. The FTIR spectrum of diamine monomer **2** (Fig. 1B) showed the characteristic bonds of amino groups at 3445 and 3358 cm<sup>-1</sup> (N–H stretching) and the characteristic absorption of trifluoromethyl group at 1164 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. In addition, the absorption band appeared at 1621 cm<sup>-1</sup> was the characteristic one of pyridine ring. In the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of diamine **2** (Fig. 2), the signals of aromatic protons appeared in the range of 6.77–8.04 ppm, and the characteristic resonance signal at 3.86 ppm is due to the amino group. The assignments of each proton agreed well with the proposed molecular structure of diamine monomer **2**.

#### 2.2. Polymer synthesis

The low-temperature solution polycondensation technique was used for the synthesis of the several fluorinated polyamides containing pyridine and sulfone moieties as depicted in Scheme 2. The polyamides **4a**–**4d** were prepared in a one-step pathway by the direct polycondensation reaction of 1 equiv. of **2** with 1 equiv.



Fig. 1. FTIR spectra of the dinitro compound 1 (A) and the diamine 2 (B).

of the diacyl chloride (**3**) in DMAc solution containing a trace of pyridine cooled by an external ice–acetone bath. The reaction temperature was maintained at -10 to 0 °C in the initial 5 h. In order to obtain maximum molecular weight, the reaction was then allowed to proceed overnight at room temperature. All polymerizations proceeded homogeneously throughout the reaction, and highly viscous solutions were obtained. The polyamides **4a–4d** with inherent viscosities ranging from 0.70 to 1.06 dL g<sup>-1</sup> (Table 1) were isolated as tough fibers in nearly quantitative yields, and could be solution-cast into films, indicating their high molecular weights.

As shown in Table 1, the viscosity of these polymers was in the order: 4a > 4b > 4c > 4d. This might be attributed to the presence of the more flexible ether groups in the main chains (polymers 4b and 4c), which decreased the intermolecular hydrogen bonding. Further, attachment of methyl substituents on the benzene ring (polymer 4d) led to increased packing distance, introduction of lateral disorder, and decreased polar forces; thus polymer 4d showed a lower viscosity.

Structural features of these polymers were characterized by FTIR and NMR spectroscopy. A typical FTIR spectrum for the polymer **4b** is displayed in Fig. 3. The FTIR spectra of all polymers showed the characteristic absorptions of the amide group at



Scheme 1. Synthetic route to new diamine monomer 2.

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