TO: NIT-4/Scientific and Technical Information Branch  
Attn: Donna Lee

FROM: GP/Office of Assistant General Counsel  
for Patent Matters

SUBJECT: Announcement of NASA-Owned U.S. Patents in STAR

In accordance with the procedures agreed upon by Code GP and  
Code NIT-4, the attached NASA-owned U.S. Patent is being  
forwarded for abstracting and announcement in NASA STAR.

The following information is provided:

U.S. Patent No. : 4,499,260

Issue Date : 2-12-85

Government or  
Contractor Employee:

NASA Case No. : 11413-1

NOTE - If this patent covers an invention made by a contractor  
employee under a NASA contract, the following is applicable:

YES ☒ NO ☐

Pursuant to Section 305(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space  
Act, the name of the Administrator of NASA appears on the first  
page of the patent; however, the name of the actual inventor  
(author) appears at the heading of Column No. 1 of the  
specification, following the words "...with respect to an  
invention of...."

Joan H. Rinehart

Employed by NASA/ARC

(A)shar - employed by National Research Council

(NASA-Case-ARC-11413-1) PHTHALOCYANINE  
POLYMERS Patent (NASA) 14 p CSCL 07D  
N85-21348

00/27 19057
**Method of forming 4,4',4",4"'-tetraamino phthalocyanines by reducing 4,4',4",4"'-tetranitro phthalocyanines, polymerization of the metal tetraamino phthalocyanines with a tetracarboxylic dianhydride (preferably aromatic) or copolymerization with a tetracarboxylic dianhydride and a diamine (preferably also aromatic) to produce amic acids which are then dehydrocyclized to imides. Thermally and oxidatively stable polymers result which form tough, flexible films, etc.**

**ABSTRACT**

Method of forming 4,4',4",4"'-tetraamino phthalocyanines by reducing 4,4',4",4"'-tetranitro phthalocyanines, polymerization of the metal tetraamino phthalocyanines with a tetracarboxylic dianhydride (preferably aromatic) or copolymerization with a tetracarboxylic dianhydride and a diamine (preferably also aromatic) to produce amic acids which are then dehydrocyclized to imides. Thermally and oxidatively stable polymers result which form tough, flexible films, etc.
FIG. 1
FIG. 2
FIG. 3

M = Cu, Co, Ni
PHTHALOCYANINE POLYMERS

ORIGIN OF THE INVENTION

The invention described herein was made in the performance of work under a NASA contract and is subject to the provisions of Section 305 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, Public Law 85-568 (72 Stat. 435; 42 U.S.C. 2457).

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a method of synthesizing metal 4,4',4'',4'''tetraamino phthalocyanines (1)

\[
\text{H}_2\text{N} \quad \text{N} \quad \text{M} \quad \text{N} \quad \text{H}_2\text{N}
\]

\[
\text{N} \quad \text{M} \quad \text{I} \quad \text{N} \quad \text{7} = \text{Q} \quad \text{NH}^+ \quad \text{M} = \text{Cu. Co. Ni.} \quad \text{etc}
\]

wherein M is a metal and to the production of polymers with dianhydrides and preferably also with diamines and to the cyclization of the resulting polymers.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The remarkable thermal stability and resistance to chemical attack coupled with the properties such as color, catalytic activity, electrical and photo-conductivity has attracted wide interest to the phthalocyanine class of compounds. Polymers having this unit in their backbone are expected to display high thermal stability up to 500° C. Many previous attempts have been made to use the highly conjugated aromatic ring structure of phthalocyanines in the preparation of thermally stable polymers, but in most cases insoluble and infusible powders of low thermal stability have been obtained. In many of the cases they were found to undergo decomposition in air around 350° C. This failure to obtain the anticipated thermal stability may be due to (1) low degree of polymerization with structural inhomogenieties, (2) impurities and (3) the presence of connecting groups having poor thermal stability. The low degree of polymerization is due to the steric hindrance caused by the large size of the phthalocyanine molecule. The characteristic insolubility and the chemical inertness of phthalocyanines have made it difficult to obtain polymeric material of high molecular weight.

The imide linkage is known to be very stable and has good moisture resistance in many polymeric materials. Phthalocyanine polymers incorporating this linkage, and using procedures favoring the formation of a high degree of polymerization, are expected to show high thermal stability. Synthetic procedures for making phthalocyanine polymers having imide linkages are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,890,274 and 3,996,196, but the procedures used to obtain either oligomeric or polymeric phthalonitrile terminated imide compounds is susceptible to giving a mixture of various side reaction products. Further, unless one uses the exact theoretical amount of metal salt to convert the end-group phthalonitriles to the phthalocyanine structure, formation of isoindoline or triazine is also possible. To suppress the formation of these side products, if one uses excess metal salt or metallic powder, there is a greater chance of incorporation of these impurities in the resulting polymers. Structural inhomogeneities or the presence of impurities will result in polymers having poor thermal stability and other undesirable properties.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

Among the objects of the invention are the provision of a superior method of preparing a metal phthalocyanine monomer which is capable of polymerization to yield metal phthalocyanine polymers which are thermally stable; to provide a method whereby phthalocyanine monomers may be polymerized to a high molecular weight polymer which has good thermal stability; to provide novel polymers of a phthalocyanine monomer which have high molecular weight and are heat resistant and are capable of forming tough flexible films, heat resistant coating materials, adhesives, fibers and other useful end products.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the invention the metal 4,4',4'',4'''tetraamino phthalocyanine 1 is prepared in purer form from heretofore by reaction of a soluble compound of the metal M, 4-nitrophthalic acid, urea and a catalyst in a suitable solvent to produce the metal 4,4',4'',4'''tetranitro phthalocyanine 2.

\[
\text{O}_2\text{N} \quad \text{M} \quad \text{N} \quad \text{NO}_2
\]

and the nitro groups are reduced to amino groups. In formulas 1 and 2M represents the chosen metal, preferably a divalent metal having an atomic radius of about 1.35 Å. The resulting tetraamino compound 1 is then polymerized with a dianhydride.
n being a number indicating the degree of polymerization. This polymer (an amic acid) is then dehydrocyclized to produce a polymer having the recurring unit

Further, a mixture of the tetraamino monomer 1, a dianhydride 3 and a diamine 6

(wherein R' is a bivalent organic group) may be copolymerized to result in a copolymer (the polyamic acid form) 7 which is then dehydrocyclized to yield a copolymer 8 as follows:
For convenience of reference, FIGS. 1, 2 and 3 illustrate the invention as follows:

FIG. 1 shows the structure of metal 4,4',4",4"'-tetraamino phthalocyanine.

FIG. 2 shows the steps involved in producing an amic acid polymer from the phthalocyanine of FIG. 1 and a dianhydride (illustrated by 3,3',4,4'-benzophenone tetracarboxylic dianhydride (step 1) and dehydrocyclizing the amic acid to an imide (step 2).

FIG. 3 illustrates a copolymer resulting from copolymerizing the same MPTA and the same dianhydride with 4,4'-diaminodiphenyl ether and dehydrocyclizing the resulting amic acid.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

EXAMPLE 1
Copper (II) 4,4',4",4"'-Tetranitro Phthalocyanine (2a)

This has the structure of 2 above wherein M is Cu(II).

12.0 g copper sulfate pentahydrate, 37.0 g 4-nitrophthalic acid, 4.5 g ammonium chloride, 0.5 g ammonium molybdate and excess urea (50-60 g) were finely ground and placed in a 500 ml three-necked flask containing 25 ml of nitrobenzene. The flask was provided with a thermometer, condenser and a mechanical stirrer. The temperature of the reaction mixture was slowly increased to 185°C and maintained at 185±5°C for 4.5 hours. The color of the reaction mixture gradually deepened and finally a deep colored solid was obtained.

The product was finely ground and washed with 65 ml of alcohol until free from nitrobenzene. The solid product was added to 500 ml of 1.0N hydrochloric acid saturated with sodium chloride, boiled for about 5 minutes, cooled to room temperature and filtered. The resulting solid was washed with 500 ml 1.0N sodium hydroxide containing 200 g sodium chloride and heated at 90°C until the evolution of ammonia ceased. The solid product after filtration was treated with 1.0N hydrochloric acid and separated by centrifugation. Alternate treatments with hydrochloric acid and sodium hydroxide were repeated twice. The copper (II) 4,4',4",4"'-tetranitro-phthalocyanine was washed with water until chloride free. The blue complex was dried at 125°C in vacuum for 1 hour. Its formula was verified by chemical and infrared analyses.

EXAMPLES 2 AND 3
Cobalt and Nickel 4,4',4",4"'-tetranitro phthalocyanine (2b and 2c)

These were prepared by the same method using cobalt and nickel in place of the copper salt of Example 1. In each case the structure was that of formula 2 wherein M=Co (II) and Ni (II), respectively. Their structures were verified by chemical and infrared analyses.

EXAMPLE 4
Copper (II) 4,4',4",4"'-tetraamino phthalocyanine (1a)

This had the structure 1 wherein M=Cu (II).

About 10 g of finely ground copper (II) 4,4',4",4"'-tetraamino phthalocyanine was placed in 250 ml water. To this slurry 50 g of sodium sulfide nonahydrate was added and stirred at 50°C for 5 hours. The solid product was separated by centrifuging the reaction mixture and treated with 750 ml of 1.0N hydrochloric acid. The bulky blue precipitate of copper (II) tetraamino phthalocyanine hydrochloride was separated by centrifugation. It was then treated with 500 ml of 1.0N sodium hydroxide, stirred for 1 hour and centrifuged to separate the dark green solid complex. The product was repeatedly treated with water, stirred and centrifuged until the material was free from sodium chloride and sodium hydroxide. The pure copper complex was dried at 150°C for 2 hours.

Compound C22H20N12Cu (CuPTA), Yield 98%.
Calcd: C, 60.42; H, 3.17; N, 26.42; Cu, 9.99; Found: C, 60.66; H, 3.4; N, 26.25; Cu, 10.1.
IR absorption bands (cm⁻¹) 3295 s, 3170 w, 3079 w, 1603 s, 1409 m, 1341 s, 1302 s, 1249 m, 1135 m, 1096 m, 1053 m, 977 w, 942 w, 861 w, 820 w, 809 w, 776 w, 744 mw, 730 mw.

EXAMPLES 5 AND 6
Cobalt and nickel 4,4',4",4"'-tetraamino phthalocyanines (compounds 1b and 1c)

These (having structure 1 with M=Co (II) and Ni (II)) were prepared by the same method as in Example.
4. Their structures were verified by chemical and infrared analyses.

The phthalocyanines are characteristically difficult to polymerize because of their insolubility, steric hindrance, etc. In accordance with the present invention, the tetraamino derivatives 1 are advantageously employed because of their solubility in solvents such as dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), dimethyl formamide (DMF), dimethyl acetamide (DMAc) and N-methyl pyrrolidone (NMP). A solution of this monomer in an aprotic solvent such as DMAc or DMF is reacted with a diamine and the indicated dianhydride 3 thus introducing linking groups between the phthalocyanine groups. The resulting polymers (amic acids) 4 are soluble in the solvents mentioned above. They can be cyclized by dehydration to yield polymers 5. If the polymerization is carried out in the presence of a diamine 6, then copolymers 7 result. These polymers can be cyclized to polymers 8.

The following specific examples are illustrative.

EXAMPLE 7
Polymerization of the copper phthalocyanine (la) with 3,3',4,4'-benzophenone tetracarboxybicyanhydride (3a)

1.013 g of copper (II) 4,4',4'',4'''-tetraamino phthalocyanine and 1.502 g 3,3',4,4'-benzophenone tetracarboxybicyanhydride were added in small portions. The dark color of the solution turned to a lighter green after 5–10 minutes and the viscosity of the solution gradually increased. A thick viscous solution, >3.0 dl/g, was obtained after 2 hours stirring in a current of nitrogen. The solution can either be used to cast film or the polymer can be precipitated with toluene. After removing the solvent at 75°C, the polymer can be cast film or used to cast film or the polymer can be precipitated with toluene. After removing the solvent, the solution was stirred for 1 hour or by heating at 350°C in a current of nitrogen for 1.5 hours.

Tables 1 and 2 summarize results obtained with polymers prepared by polymerizing the indicated tetraamino phthalocyanine with 3,3',4,4'-benzophenone tetracarboxybicyanhydride (Table 1) or with 1,2,4,5-benzene tetracarboxybicyanhydride (Table 2). Wherever in these tables a tetraamine appears alone in the column headed Amines, the polymerization was between the tetraamino phthalocyanine and the indicated tetracyanhydride alone, and wherever a second amine is indicated the polymerization was a co-polymerization of the tetraamino phthalocyanine, the indicated second amine and the indicated tetracyanhydride. Numbers in parentheses indicate gram proportions. BPTDA is 3,3',4,4'-benzophenone tetracarboxybicyanhydride. DMSO is dimethyl sulfoxide. PDT is polymer decomposition temperature. PTA is 4,4',4''',4'''-tetracyanhydride. DADPE is 4,4'-diamino diphenyl ether. PDA is p-phenylene diamine. DADPM is 4,4'-diamino diphenyl methane. BAF is 9,9-bis(4'-amino phenyl)fluorene. PMDA is pyromellitic dianhydride.

### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Amines (g)</th>
<th>BPTDA (g)</th>
<th>DMSO (ml)</th>
<th>PDT (°C)</th>
<th>PTA (°C)</th>
<th>CHAR YIELD %</th>
<th>800°C°C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CuPTA (1.0)</td>
<td>1.013</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>CuPTA (1.0)</td>
<td>1.013</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>NiPTA (1.0)</td>
<td>1.013</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>CuPTA (0.795) + DADPE (1.502)</td>
<td>3.222</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>CuPTA (0.790)</td>
<td>1.013</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>NiPTA (0.789)</td>
<td>1.013</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>CuPTA (0.795) + PDA (0.811)</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>71</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>CuPTA (0.790)</td>
<td>1.013</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>NiPTA (0.789)</td>
<td>1.013</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>CuPTA (1.487)</td>
<td>1.013</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>CuPTA (0.790)</td>
<td>1.013</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It will be apparent that other dianhydrides and other diamines may be employed. If a greater degree of cross linking is desired anhydrides and/or amines of higher functionality than two may be used. However, the resulting polymers are likely to be intractable, insoluble materials. The phthalocyanine structure may have substituents on the benzene rings, e.g. methyl, ethyl, etc. provided they do not interfere with the copolymerization reaction and the anhydride and amine reactants may likewise have such substituents subject to the same proviso. Such substituents may be hydrocarbon or they may be or may contain hetero atoms such as, for example, chlorine, methoxy, etc.

Examples of suitable dianhydrides are 1,2,4,5-benzene tetracarboxylic dianhydride; bis(3,4-dicarboxyphenyl)ether dianhydride; 2,3,6,7-tetrachloronaphthalene-1,4,5,8-tetracarboxylic dianhydride; 3,3',4,4'-diphenyl tetraacylic dianhydride and 3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-diamino diphenyl ether dianhydride; 3,3'-diethyl-4,4'-diamino diphenyl ether; 3,3'-diethoxy-4,4'-diamino dianhydride.

It has been observed that MPTA/dianhydride polymers prepared with 3,3',4,4'-benzophenone tetracarboxylic dianhydride and 1,2,4,5-benzene tetracarboxylic dianhydride have high decomposition temperatures, e.g. 505°-565° in air and 550°-575° in nitrogen and that they have a high char yield but they do not have a high degree of polymerization as shown by inherent viscosity measurements (0.35-0.42 dl/g). This is believed to be due to steric hindrance which is overcome by the use of linking groups derived from diamines. By varying the length of the connecting group derived from the diamine, this factor (degree of polymerization) can be controlled and extended while preserving heat resistance. By using diamines of different lengths, medium to infinite degrees of polymerization can be achieved.

Among diamines that may be used are 4,4'-diaminodiphenyl ether; 4,4'-diaminodiphenyl methane; 4,4'-diaminodiphenyl phenyl phosphine oxide; 4,4'-diaminodiphenyl sulfide; 4,4'-diamino diphenyl silane; benzidine; 3,3'-dichlorobenzidine; 1,5-diamino naphthalene; 3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-diamino diphenyl ether; 3,3'-diethyl-4,4'-diamino diphenyl ether; 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-diamino diphenyl ether; 3,3'-diethoxy-4,4'-diamino di-
diethoxy-4,4'-diamino diphenyl sulfide; 3,3'-dichloro-
4,4'-diamino diphenyl sulfone; besides being unreactive and being a good solvent for
3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-diamino diphenyl sulfone; 3,3'-diethoxy-4,4'-diamino diphenyl sulfone; 3,3'-
diethoxy-4,4'-diamino diphenyl methane; 3,3'-dichloro-4,4'-
diamino diphenyl methane; 3,3'-dibromo-4,4'-
diamino diphenyl methane; 3,3'-dichloro-4,4'-
diamino diphenyl sulfone; 3,3'-diethyldiyl-4,4'-
diamino diphenyl sulfide; 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-
diamino diphenyl sulfide; 3,3'-
diethoxy-4,4'-diamino diphenyl propane; 3,3'-dibromo-
4,4'-diamino diphenyl propane; 3,3'-dichloro-4,4'-
diamino diphenyl propane; 3,3'-dibromo-4,4'-
diamino benzophenone; 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-
diamino benzophenone; 3,3'-dichloro-4,4'-diamino benzophenone, 3,3'-
dibromo-4,4'-diamino benzophenone; 3,3'-diamino-
diphenyl ether; 3,3'-diamino diphenyl sulfide; 3,3'-
diamino diphenyl sulfone; p-phenylene diamine; m-
phenylene diamine, 9,9-bis(4-amino phenyl)fluorene; 3,3'-
diamino diphenyl propane; 3,3'-diamino benzophenone and the like. The most preferred diamines are: 4,4'-
diamino-diphenyl ether, p-phenylene diamine; 3,3'-
diamino diphenyl methane; and 9,9-bis(4'-amino-
phenyl)fluorene.

Although aromatic amines are preferred, aliphatic
diamines such as the following may be used: ethylene
diamine, and other alkylene diamines, e.g. tetramethyl-
enene diamines and hexamethylene diamines; cycloali-
phatic diamines such as 1,4-diamino cyclohexane, etc. It
will be apparent that mixtures of two or more dianhy-
drides and of two or more diamines may be used.

In reducing the tetranitro compounds 2 to the tetra-
amino compounds 1, a wide variety of reductants
agents may be used, e.g., stannous chloride, sulfides
such as sodium sulfide, hydrogenation and iron/acetic
acid.

Solvents for preparation of the tetranitro precursor 2
and for the reduction of the nitro compound 2 to the
tetraamino compound 1 include dimethyl sulfoxide,
dimethyl formamide, dimethyl acetamide, N-methyl
pyrrolidone, and pyrrolidone. Similar solvents may be
used in the polymerization and co-polymerization reac-
tions.

Any mono-, di- or higher valency metal M may be
used in place of divalent copper, cobalt and nickel, e.g.,
Cu(I), cobalt and nickel in other valence states, Fe(II),
Fe(III), Zn, Al, lead, tin, palladium, germanium, vanad-
ium, platinum and molybdenum in various valence
states; monovalent metals such as Li, Na and K, etc.
Where the metal is monovalent two atoms will be pres-
ent, one atom above and the other atom below the plane
of the phthalocyanine molecule. With a trivalent metal
such as aluminum, one of the valences may be satisfied
by a ligand such as Cl, F, acetate, etc., e.g., the metallic
compound can be represented as M'X where M' is the
metal atom and X is an inorganic atom or radical or an
organic group.

Preferably the metal is divalent and has an atomic
radius close to 1.35 Å. Metals of substantially larger
atomic radius may not fit well into the molecule and
metals having a substantially smaller atomic radius are
more likely to be extracted by strong acids, e.g.,
concentrated sulfuric acid. Metals having ligands may be
susceptible to hydrolytic action.

Any soluble salt or hydroxide of the selected metal
may be used provided the counter ion is compatible
with the reactants and the reaction product. For exam-
ple, the metal M may be used in the form of its sulfate,
chloride, nitrate, acetate, oxalate, etc. Also, it may be
used in the form of a finely divided metallic powder.
Preferably the reactants are used in approximately sto-
ichiometric proportions. The ammonium chloride may
be used alone as the catalyst but the use of ammonium
molybdate as well allows the reaction to proceed at a
lower temperature and increases the yield.

Nitrobenzene is an advantageous solvent because,
besides being unreactive and being a good solvent for
the reactants, it has a high boiling point (210° C). Other
aprotic solvents such as quinoline and tetralin may be
used. Yields of 90% or more are obtainable.

The metal M may be removed from the molecule as
by dissolving it in concentrated sulfuric acid to produce
the hydrogen (protonated) species in which each of the
two covalent bonds is connected to hydrogen. The
protonated species may then be treated with an alco-
solnic solution of a metal salt, e.g., copper sulfate, to
insert the metal, e.g., Cu(II). In this way one metal may
be substituted for another. However, it is preferred to
choose the desired metal initially and to insert it in the
phthalocyanine molecule in the synthesis of the tetra-
nitro compound 2.

The copolymerization of MPTA, dianhydride and
diamine is carried out stepwise. In the first step copoly-
merization to the amic acid is effected, then decarbox-
ylation is effected. In the first step a solvent is used, e.g.
DMSO or DMAc (dimethyl acetamide). The preferred
solvent is dimethyl sulfoxide. The temperature of the
reaction can be varied between 20°-50° C. with the
yield varies between 65-80 at
50 atmospheres. These polymers are very resistant to ther-
atrxises; monovalent metals such as Li, Na and
K, etc. 1.25:7.5:10. Most desirable concentration range of the
metal M for the reaction is 3 to 5%. The polymer and
mal degradation in anerobic atmosphere and their char
yield varies between 65-80 at 800° C. depending upon the
amines, dianhydride and their molar concentrations
used. The inherent viscosities obtained vary between
0.75 and >3.0 dl/g. The most preferred ratio of the
molar concentrations of the metal 4,4',4",4"'-tetra-aminophthalocyanine, the diamine and the dianhydride is
1.25:7:5:10. Most desirable concentration range of the
polymer for the reaction is 3 to 5%. The polymer and
copolymers of the present invention are useful for pre-
paring high temperature resistant films, varnishes, adhe-
sives and fibers.

It will therefore be apparent that new and useful
polymers, polymer precursors, and methods of synthe-
sis and polymerization have been provided.

We claim:
1. A method of forming polymers of a metal
4,4',4",4"'-tetraamino phthalocyanine which comprises

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4,499,260

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reacting the metal 4,4',4'',4''' tetraamino phthalocyanine in liquid phase at about 20° C. to about 50° C. with a tetracarboxylic dianhydride of the formula

wherein R is an organic group selected from the group consisting of aromatic and alicyclic groups to produce an amic acid polymer having a recurring unit wherein M is the metal and R is the organic group of the dianhydride.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein M is a divalent metal having an atomic radius of approximately 1.35 Å.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the dianhydride is an aromatic dianhydride.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the dianhydride is 1,2,4,5-benzene tetracarboxylic dianhydride.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the dianhydride is 3,3',4,4'-benzophenone tetracarboxylic dianhydride.

6. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of dehydrocylizing the amic acid polymer by a process selected from thermal cyclization, azeotroping water of cyclization, refluxing in glacial acetic acid in the presence of fused sodium acetate to produce an imide polymer having the recurring unit wherein R is an organic group selected from the group consisting of aromatic and alicyclic groups, and a diamine of the formula \( \text{H}_2\text{N} - \text{R} - \text{NH}_2 \) wherein R' is a bivalent organic group selected from the group consisting of bivalent aliphatic groups, bivalent cycloaliphatic groups, and bivalent aromatic groups to yield an amic acid copolymer.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the metal M is a divalent metal having an atomic radius about 1.35 Å.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the dianhydride is aromatic.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the dianhydride is 1,2,4,5-benzene tetracarboxylic dianhydride.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the dianhydride is 3,3',4,4'-benzophenone tetracarboxylic dianhydride.

11. A method of forming polymers of a metal 4,4',4'',4'''-tetraamino phthalocyanine which comprises reacting the metal 4,4',4'',4'''-tetraamino phthalocyanine in liquid phase at a temperature of from about 20° C. to about 50° C. with a tetracarboxylic dianhydride of the formula

wherein R is an organic group selected from the group consisting of aromatic and alicyclic groups to produce an amic acid polymer having a recurring unit wherein M is the metal and R is the organic group of the dianhydride.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the metal is a divalent metal having an atomic radius about 1.35 Å.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the dianhydride is aromatic.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the diamine is aromatic.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein both R and R' are aromatic.

16. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step wherein the amic acid copolymer is dehydrocylized by a process selected from thermal cyclization, azeotroping water of cyclization, refluxing in glacial acetic acid in the presence of fused sodium acetate to produce a polymer having the recurring unit
wherein \( R \) is an organic group selected from the group consisting of aromatic and alicyclic groups which are derived from the dianhydride and \( R' \) is an organic group selected from the group consisting of aromatic, aliphatic and cycloaliphatic groups which are derived from the diamine.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein \( M \) is a divalent metal having an atomic radius about 1.35 Å.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the dianhydride is aromatic.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the diamine is aromatic.

20. The method of claim 16 wherein both the dianhydride and the diamine are aromatic.

21. Polymers having the following recurring unit wherein \( M \) is a metal and \( R \) is an organic group derived from a dianhydride and selected from the group consisting of aromatic groups and alicyclic groups.

22. Polymers of claim 21 wherein \( M \) is divalent and has an atomic radius about 1.35 Å.

23. Polymers of claim 21 wherein \( R \) is an aromatic group derived from an aromatic dianhydride.

24. Polymers of claim 23 wherein the dianhydride is 1,2,3,4-benzene tetracarboxylic dianhydride.

25. Polymers of claim 23 wherein the dianhydride is 3,3',4,4'-benzophenone tetracarboxylic dianhydride.

26. Polymers having the following recurring unit wherein \( M \) is a metal and \( R \) is an organic group derived from a dianhydride and selected from the group consisting of aromatic groups and alicyclic groups.
Polymers of claim 28 wherein the dianhydride is 3,3',4,4'-benzophenone tetracarboxylic dianhydride.

31. Copolymers of a metal 4,4',4'',4'''-tetraamino phthalocyanine, a tetracarboxylic dianhydride selected from the group consisting of aromatic tetracarboxylic dianhydrides and alicyclic tetracarboxylic dianhydrides and a diamine selected from aromatic diamines, aliphatic diamines and cycloaliphatic diamines.

32. Polymers of claim 3 wherein the metal is a divalent metal having an atomic radius about 1.35 Å.

33. Polymers of claim 31 wherein the dianhydride is aromatic.

34. Polymers of claim 31 wherein the diamine is aromatic.

35. Polymers of claim 31 wherein both the dianhydride and the diamine are aromatic.

36. Polymers having the following recurring unit wherein M is a metal, R is an organic group selected from aromatic and alicyclic groups derived from a dianhydride and R' is an organic group selected from aromatic groups, cycloaliphatic groups and aliphatic groups derived from a diamine

37. Polymers of claim 36 wherein M is a divalent metal having an atomic radius about 1.35 Å.

38. Polymers of claim 36 wherein the dianhydride is aromatic.

39. Polymers of claim 36 wherein the diamine is aromatic.

40. Polymers of claim 36 wherein both the dianhydride and the diamine are aromatic.

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