

Master « Chimie » M2
Option Chimie des Matériaux Moléculaires

Epreuve sur le cours du professeur Jean-François Nicoud : « **Photonique Moléculaire** »

3 mars 2009 (durée 1h) (à rendre sur copie séparée)

1^{ère} question :

Répondre de façon brève mais explicite aux questions suivantes :

- Pourquoi faut-il de la lumière laser pour mettre en évidence des effets d'optique non-linéaire (ONL) dans un matériau ?
- Quelle est la longueur d'onde du deuxième harmonique obtenu à partir d'un rayonnement laser YAG-Nd³⁺ à 1,06 μm ?
- Qu'est-ce que le KDP ?
- L'hyperpolarisabilité β est décrite par un tenseur de rang 3. Combien y-a-t-il de composantes ?
- Quel est l'intérêt de la chiralité moléculaire en ingénierie de cristaux organiques pour l'optique non-linéaire quadratique? Dessiner une molécule simple, déjà synthétisée et étudiée ou bien hypothétique, n'ayant pas plus de 15 atomes de carbones, qui illustre la propriété précédente.
- Que signifie "*accord de phase*" (en anglais "*phase matching*") dans un matériau ONL ? Quelle est la propriété qui permet un tel processus ?

2^{ème} question :

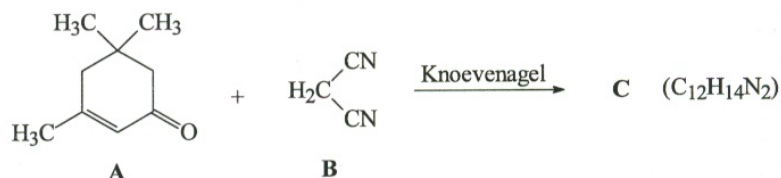
On donne la copie de la publication des travaux d'une équipe chinoise sur la synthèse et la caractérisation de nouveaux chromophores hyperpolarisables étendus de type unidimensionnel, dits "chromophores ONL".

1°) Après avoir lu et analysé le texte fourni (*Chem. Commun.*, **2001**, 171-172), répondre aux questions suivantes :

- a) Que signifie l'expression "*blue-shifted absorption*" (p. 171, colonne 1, ligne 21) ? prendre l'exemple des chromophores **1** et **2** pour répondre.
- b) Quelle stratégie d'ingénierie moléculaire pour les chromophores ONL les auteurs de cette publication ont-ils mis en œuvre ? Prendre l'exemple du chromophore **I** pour répondre.
- c) Ecrire les formes mésomères limites principales du chromophore **I** rendant compte du transfert de charge intramoléculaire (ICT). Pourquoi peut-on le qualifier d'unidimensionnel (1D) ?
- d) Les hyperpolarisabilités β des molécules **I** et **II** ont été mesurées par une méthode appelée « Hyper Rayleigh Scattering » (HRS) (non vue en cours) qui ne nécessite pas l'application d'un champ électrique externe, contrairement à la méthode EFISHG : à quelle longueur d'onde ont été mesurés les β moléculaires ? (page 171, colonne 2, en haut).
- e) Ensuite les auteurs donnent des valeurs de β_0 extrapolées à l'aide du "*modèle à 2 niveaux*". Ces valeurs sont plus faibles que celles des β , expliquer pourquoi.
- f) Expliquer quels sont les deux paramètres fondamentaux du "*modèle à 2 niveaux*" pour l'hyperpolarisabilité β , mentionnés p. 172, colonne 1, en bas ?

2°) On s'intéresse maintenant à la synthèse du chromophore **5** :

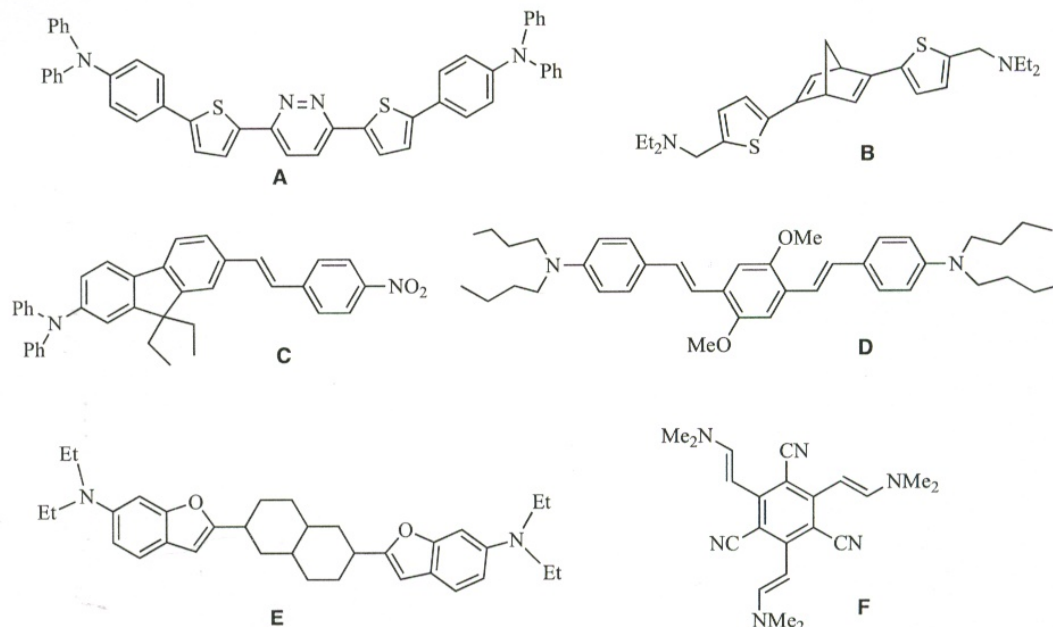
- a) Un produit de base pour cette synthèse est l'isophorone **A**, cétone conjuguée commerciale, de faible coût. Dans une première étape on couple l'isophorone avec le malononitrile **B** par une réaction de Knoevenagel (addition-1,2 normale sur le carbonyle). En déduire la structure du produit **C** obtenu (on ne demande pas les conditions de réactions, ni le mécanisme).



- b) Dans **C** il y a un "méthylène activé", c'est à dire une liaison C-H suffisamment acide pour former un carbanion nucléophile en milieu basique. Préciser sa position en l'entourant sur un dessin, et expliquer pourquoi.
- c) En déduire la structure du composé **D** qu'on a fait réagir avec **C** pour obtenir le chromophore **5**. Préciser le type de réaction utilisée pour cette étape.

3^{ème} question :

Examiner les 6 molécules (**A-F**) présentées ci-dessous, et en déduire quelles sont celles qui sont susceptibles de présenter des propriétés d'absorption à 2 photons significatives. Bien argumenter dans chaque cas votre réponse.



The design of second-order nonlinear optical chromophores exhibiting blue-shifted absorption and large nonlinearities: the role of the combined conjugation bridge†

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Two new extended chromophoric systems, in which a 4-aminoazobenzene moiety is linked to a cyclo-bridged hexatriene electron withdrawing group, have been synthesized, and show large optical nonlinearities and unexpected blue-shifted absorption in comparison with shorter chain analogues.

Organic and polymeric second-order nonlinear optical (NLO) materials have been extensively studied for their potential applications involving optical signal processing and telecommunications.¹ One of the major challenges in this area of research is to design and synthesize second-order NLO chromophores simultaneously exhibiting large first molecular hyperpolarizability (β), high chemical and thermal stability, and good optical transparency.^{2,3} Most attempts to design molecules with large β since the 1980s have been based upon 'push-pull' compounds,⁴ in which a π -conjugated bridge is endcapped with an electron donor group and an electron acceptor group. From the two-level model,⁵ the β value of this type of chromophore is a strong function of the absorption maximum (λ_{max}), leading to the so-called nonlinearity–transparency tradeoff.

Among all the attempts to solve this kind of trade-off, it has been proved that the nature of π -conjugated bridge of chromophores is one of the crucial factors in determining the linear and nonlinear optical properties of the chromophores. For example, Alain *et al.* recently reported⁶ that chromophore **1** (Fig. 1), in which a biphenyl moiety is present between the diphenylpolyene unit, exhibits a 45 nm (2400 cm⁻¹) blue-shifted absorption and similar optical nonlinearity compared with its all diphenylpolyenic analogue (chromophore **2**, Fig. 1), though the conjugation bridge of **1** is much longer. It seems a worthwhile job to study further the linear and nonlinear optical properties of the chromophores by using a combination of different types of conjugation bridges.

Therefore, we have recently designed two new chromophores (**I** and **II** in Fig. 2)† in which the conjugation bridge of

isophorone-protected triene with the terminal acceptors is linked to a donor-substituted azo benzene bridge.

The first molecular hyperpolarizabilities of chromophores **I** and **II** were measured by Hyper-Rayleigh Scattering (HRS) in methanol using the fundamental excitation wavelength of 1064 nm; *p*-nitroaniline (PNA) was used as the external reference. The β values of **I** and **II** were found to be 2890×10^{-30} esu and 3490×10^{-30} esu, respectively, and by using the two-level approximation model, the zero-frequency hyperpolarizabilities β_0 of **I** and **II** were extrapolated to be 337×10^{-30} esu and 198×10^{-30} esu, respectively.

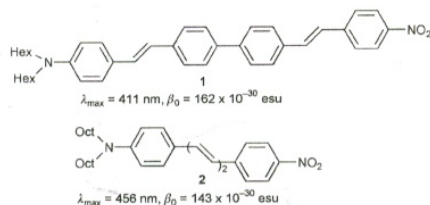


Fig. 1 Chemical structures and properties of chromophores **1** and **2**.

† Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: synthesis and structural characterization of several new compounds of this work. See <http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/cc/b0/b007653h/>

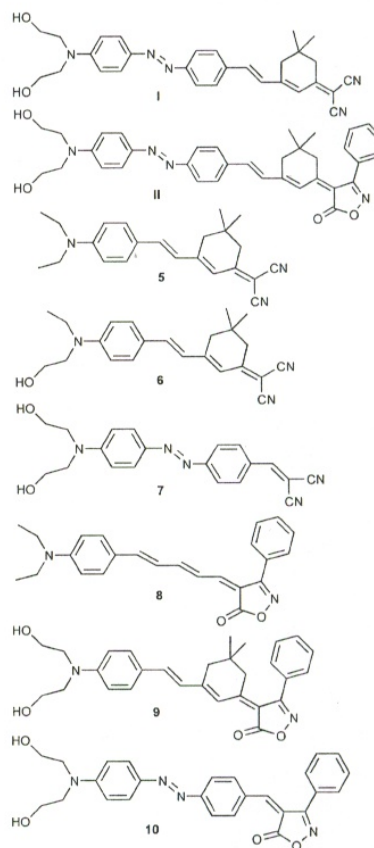


Fig. 2 Chemical structures of chromophores **I**, **II** and their corresponding triene-only and azo-only analogues (chromophores **5–10**).

Table 1 The linear and nonlinear properties of chromophore **I**, **II** and **5–10**

	Solvatochromism data ^a ($\lambda_{\text{max}}/\text{nm}$)				Theoretical investigation ⁷		Experimental results	
	CHCl ₃	AcOEt	DMF	NMP	β_0^b	f^c	β_{HRS}^d	f^e
I	490	492	511	519	52.6	2.3302	337	1.0
5	519	504	527	535	46.8	1.5646	—	0.72
6	—	—	—	534	—	—	60 ^e	—
7	508	505	525	533	42.5	1.4965	55 ^e	0.86
II	510	507	517	533	—	—	198	1.1
8	562	—	—	—	—	—	90 ^e	—
9	568	—	—	—	—	—	27 ^{e,13}	—
10	516	524	545	553	—	—	—	0.82

^a AcOEt: ethyl acetate, DMF: dimethylformamide, NMP: *N*-methylpyrrolidone. ^b AM1/FF results, in units of 10^{-30} esu. ^c ZINDO/S-CI results. ^d Dispersion-corrected β values (in units of 10^{-30} esu) of **I** and **II** were calculated by using an approximate two-level model. ^e β_{HRS} values are estimated from the data of β_{EFISH} previously reported⁸ according to the following equation: $\beta_{\text{HRS}} = (6/35)^{1/2} \beta_{\text{EFISH}}$.

Besides the target chromophores **I** and **II**, the other six chromophores (**5–10**, see Fig. 2), which are the azo-only or triene-only analogues of **I** and **II**, respectively, will also be discussed below.^{8,9}

The linear and the nonlinear properties of these chromophores are summarized in Table 1. It can be seen that **I** and **II**, two chromophores employing the combination of azo benzene and conjugated triene as their conjugation bridge, display unexpectedly blue-shifted absorption compared with the corresponding azo-only or triene-only analogues, although the length of their conjugation bridge is much longer. For instance, the absorption maxima of **I** is about 15 nm (500 cm^{-1}) blue-shifted compared with **5**, **6**, and **7** in different organic solvents. And as shown in Fig. 3, there is no significant broadening of the main absorption band for **I**, if another absorption band around 400 nm in their UV-Vis spectrum is taken into account, and this is also the case for **II**. All these results show that for **I** and **II**, the electron transmission process between donor and acceptor groups is affected, and the intramolecular charge transfer (ICT) efficiency is reduced. This reduction may occur through using different types of bridge with different energy orbitals other than the most efficiently conjugated bridge possible.

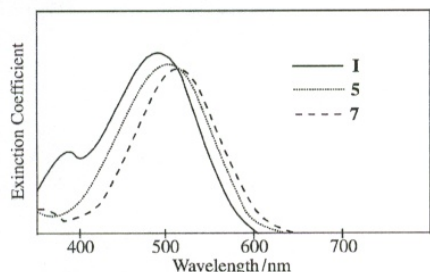


Fig. 3 Comparison of the absorption spectra of chromophores **I**, **5**, and **7** in methanol.

Although the π -electron delocalization efficiency of **I** and **II** is somewhat reduced, it should be noted that the β_0 values of **I** and **II** are quite competitive with those of their corresponding analogues from the theoretical investigation and the experimental results. This appears to be at variance with the predictions of the two-level model. However, besides the nonlinearity–transparency trade-off mentioned above, the two-level model also adduces that the β value is a strong function of the oscillator strengths (f) and $\Delta\mu$, the change of dipole moment upon excitation. Thus it can be phenomenologically deduced that the reduction of the ICT efficiency of chromophores **I** and **II** does not accompany a decrease in their f and/or $\Delta\mu$ values, and this has been partially verified by the experimental results.

As shown in Table 1, the oscillator strengths (f) of **I** and **II**, respectively determined to be 1.0 and 1.1, are significantly higher than those of the corresponding azo-only or triene-only analogues. It seems that the larger oscillator strengths of **I** and **II** may be one of the major points for counterbalancing the effects of blue shifts. Further study is needed for a full interpretation.

In summary, we have explored two new NLO chromophores with combined conjugation bridges and found that they possess blue-shifted absorption and large molecular nonlinearities. Experimental results indicate that the combined conjugation bridge tunes the linear and nonlinear properties of the chromophores in a different style from those of common homologous chromophores. We expect this methodology to build up new molecular engineering, thereby providing a new opportunity for defeating the ‘nonlinearity–transparency trade-off’. Design and synthesis of further chromophores with different types of combined conjugation bridge, and a detailed investigation of the origin of this new effect are currently in progress.

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