

Research Paper

Chemical modification of imipramine and desipramine

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Abstract Chemical modification of imipramine and desipramine, which have pharmaceutical applications such as an antidepressant was carried out. Dibromoimipramine and dibromodesipramine were prepared from imipramine hydrochloride and desipramine hydrochloride, respectively. Dibromodesipramine was reacted with di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate to prepare *N*-Boc type compound. ESI-MS of the dibromides showed typical MS signals of dibromides. Polymerizations of the dibromides by the nickel-promoted coupling reaction afforded corresponding polymers. These results suggest that chemical modification of imipramine and desipramine expected to develop another functional material.

Key words: imipramine, desipramine, dibromide, polymerization

Introduction

Triclinic compounds have been widely used as medical drugs¹⁻⁵. As a triclinic compound, we focused imipramine (**Imip**, Fig. 1)^{6,7}. It is known that metabolization of **Imip** affords desipramine (**Desi**^{7,8}, Fig. 1)⁹⁻¹¹. On the other hand, these materials are ethylene unit-bridged diphenylamine derivatives with alkylamine substituent on the N atom of their diphenylamine unit. Diphenylamine with bridged units has been of interest for functional materials. We previously reported the preparation, properties, and applications of sulfur (-S-)^{12,13}, sulfone (-SO-)^{12,13}, monosilane (-SiR₂-)¹⁴⁻²⁴, disilane (-SiMe₂SiMe₂-)^{15,23-25}, and disiloxane (-SiMe₂OSiMe₂-)^{15,24} unit-bridged diphenylamine derivatives.

We also prepared ethylene-bridged diphenylamine-containing polymers²⁶⁻³⁰. Diphenylamine with bridged unit can be expected as materials for bio-conjugation such as DNA¹⁴⁻¹⁷, or biodegradable plastics^{18,19,26-30}. Therefore it

can also be expected to be functional for medical materials as well. These polymers are prepared from corresponding dibromides as monomers, which seems to be easy to check their structure by MS because their molecular weight is observed as three molecular ion peaks at ± 2 at their mother molecular ion peak. Therefore, more detailed analysis of the dibromide with other analysis methods (NMR, IR, etc) will be expected.

In this manuscript, we here report results of MS analysis of dibromoimipramine and dibromodesipramine derivatives. As chemical modification of imipramine and desipramine, we also tried polymerization of the dibromides derivatives as monomers to prepare imipramine or desipramine homopolymers.

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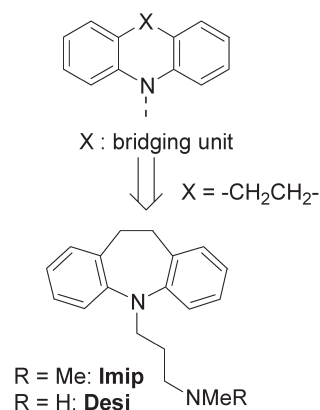


Fig. 1. Diphenylamine with bridging unit.

Materials and Methods

Reagents and measurements

2,8-dibromoimipramine hydrochloride (2,8-dibromo-10,11-dihydro-5-[3,3-di(methylamino)propyl]-5*H*-dibenz[*b,f*]azepine hydrochloride, **BrImipHCl**)²⁶ and 2,8-dibromodesipramine hydrochloride (2,8-dibromo-10,11-dihydro-5-[3-(methylamino)propyl]-5*H*-dibenz[*b,f*]azepine hydrochloride, **BrDesiHCl**)²⁷ were prepared by the reported procedures. Other chemicals were also used as purchased. NMR spectra were taken by using a Varian INOVA400 spectrometer, and IR spectra were taken by using a JASCO FT/IR-410 spectrometer. UV-visible spectra were measured with a JASCO V-570DS spectrometer.

Shimadzu LCMS-8040 mass spectrometer and Shimadzu NexeraX2 LC system (Shimadzu Co., Kyoto, Japan) were used for ESI-MS analysis.

Preparation of the compounds

Preparation of 2,8-dibromo-10,11-dihydro-5-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-5*H*-dibenz[*b,f*]azepine (**BrImip**)

NaOH (0.64 g, 16 mmol) was added to **BrImipHCl** (0.51 g, 1.07 mmol) in water and the mixture was stirred for 2 h. Then, the mixture was extracted by ether, and the organic layer was washed in brine and dried over MgSO₄. After removal of MgSO₄ by filtration, the solvent was removed by evaporation. **BrImip** was obtained as a yellow liquid. Yield was 84%.

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.2–7.3 (m, 4H), 6.93 (d, 2H, *J*=9.4 Hz), 3.69 (t, 2H, *J*=7.0 Hz), 3.10 (s, 4H), 2.28 (t, 2H, *J*=7.2 Hz), 2.16 (s, 6H), 1.6–1.8 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 146.86, 136.00, 132.36, 129.28, 121.77, 115.27, 57.36, 48.93, 45.49, 31.61, 25.92 ppm.

Preparation of 2,8-dibromo-10,11-dihydro-5-[3-(methylamino)propyl]-5*H*-dibenz[*b,f*]azepine (**BrDesi**)

Reaction of **BrDesiHCl** (1.38 g, 3.00 mmol) and NaOH (0.53 g, 13.25 mmol) by the same preparation method of **BrImip** resulted **BrDesi** (1.18 g, 2.78 mmol) as a light brown liquid. Yield was 93%.

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.2–7.3 (m, 4H), 6.92 (d, 2H, *J*=9.4 Hz), 3.70 (t, 2H, *J*=6.8 Hz), 3.09 (s, 4H), 2.56 (t, 2H, *J*=7.0 Hz), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.6–1.8 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 146.71, 135.89, 132.25, 129.16, 121.63, 115.18, 49.49, 48.56, 36.43, 31.47, 27.75 ppm.

Preparation of 2,8-dibromo-10,11-dihydro-5-[3-(*N*-methyl-*N*-*t*-butoxycarbonylamino)propyl]-5*H*-dibenz[*b,f*]azepine (**BrDesiBoc**)

BrDesi (0.79 g, 1.86 mmol) and di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (Boc₂O, 1.10 g, 5.04 mmol) was dissolved to 20 mL of acetonitrile and *N,N*-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP, 22.4 mg, 0.18 mmol) was added to the mixture. The mixture was stirred overnight, then the solvent was evaporated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography. **BrDesiBoc** (0.78 g, 1.49 mmol) obtained as a light brown liquid. Yield was 80%.

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.2–7.3 (m, 4H), 6.89 (d, 2H, *J*=9.4 Hz), 3.63 (t, 2H, *J*=6.8 Hz), 3.18 (br, 2H), 3.08 (s, 4H), 2.74 (br, 3H), 1.6–1.8 (m, 2H), 1.38 (s, 9H) ppm. ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 146.41, 135.72, 132.11, 128.99, 128.94, 121.25, 115.11, 78.95, 47.84, 33.92, 31.25, 28.02, 25.79 ppm.

Reaction of **BrDesiBoc** and trifluoroacetic acid

BrDesiBoc (305 mg) was dissolved in trifluoroacetic acid (TFA, 3 mL) and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The solution was poured into water (5 mL) and NaOH (0.52 g) was added to the solution. The solution was extracted by ether and the organic layer was washed in NaOH aq and brine. Then, the organic layer was dried over MgSO₄. After removal of MgSO₄ by filtration, the solvent was removed by evaporation. 134 mg of light brown liquid was obtained.

Preparation of polymers

Preparation of poly(10,11-dihydro-5-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-5*H*-dibenz[*b,f*]azepine-2,8-diyl) (**PImp**)

Under nitrogen, toluene (5 mL) solution of **BrImip** (370 mg, 0.84 mmol) was added to a mixture of Ni(cod)₂ (340 mg, 1.24 mmol, cod=1,5-cyclooctadiene), cod (1 mL) and 2,2'-bipyridyl (bpy, 190 mg, 1.22 mmol) in toluene (5 mL) and the mixture was heated at 60 °C for 48 h. A black powder precipitated upon pouring the mixture into methanol was successively washed with water, methanol, and hexane. As colorless powder, 146 mg (0.52 mmol monomer unit) of **PImp** was obtained. Yield was 62%. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 6.8–7.6 (m, 6H), 3.80 (2H), 3.21 (4H), 2.32 (2H), 2.17 (6H), 1.77 (2H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 147.01, 134.99, 134.13, 128.15, 124.75, 120.18, 57.43, 48.75, 45.05, 32.45, 25.57 ppm.

Preparation of (10,11-dihydro-5-[3-(*N*-methyl-*N*-*t*-butoxycarbonylamino)propyl]-5*H*-dibenz[*b,f*]azepine-2,8-diyl) (**PDesiBoc**)

Reaction of 1.17 g (2.23 mmol) of **BrDesiBoc** with 0.74 g of Ni(cod)₂ and 0.42 g of bpy afforded 730 mg (2.0 mmol monomer unit) of **PDesiBoc**. Yield was 90%. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.0–7.4 (m, 6H), 3.78 (2H), 3.23 (6H), 2.75 (3H), 1.82 (2H), 1.38 (9H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 155.73, 147.93, 135.01, 134.17, 128.15, 124.81, 120.05, 79.23, 48.20, 46.57, 34.26, 32.41, 28.39, 26.42 ppm.

Preparation of (10,11-dihydro-5-[3-(methylamino)propyl]-5*H*-dibenz[*b,f*]azepine-2,8-diyl) (**PDesi**)

PDesiBoc (228 mg) was dissolved in TFA (10 mL) and the solution was stirred at room temperature for two days. The solution was poured into 30 mL of 3M NaOH aqueous solution to obtain precipitation and the precipitation was washed in methanol. Drying under vacuum the precipitation gave 119 mg of **PDesi** as white powder. As **PDesi**, yield was 72%. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.0–7.4 (m, 6H), 3.83 (2H), 3.23 (6H), 2.62 (2H), 1.82 (2H), 1.38 (9H).

Results and Discussion

Preparation of dibromides

BrImipHCl²⁶ and **BrDesiHCl**²⁷ were prepared as solid

from commercially available products imipramine hydrochloride (**ImipHCl**) and desipramine hydrochloride (**DesiHCl**) by the reported method for bromination of *N*-methyldiphenylamine³¹. ESI-MS of **BrImipHCl** and **BrDesiHCl** were shown in Fig. 2(a) and 2(b). As shown in the figures, typical molecular ion peaks assigned as dibromide was observed. When HCl of **BrImipHCl** and **BrDesiHCl** were neutralized by base like NaOH (Fig. 3(a)), HCl in **BrImipHCl** and **BrDesiHCl** was removed and **BrImip** and **BrDesi** were obtained as viscous liquid, respectively. ESI-MS of **BrImip** (Fig. 2(c)) and **BrDesi** (Fig. 2(d)) showed molecular ion peaks as [M+H]⁺. As shown in Fig. 4, NMR signals based on aminoalkyl unit moved to the high magnetic field by reaction with NaOH. These changes of NMR shift seem to come from the change of electronic state of alkylamine unit by removal of HCl.

The NH unit of **BrDesi** was converted to *N*-butoxycarbonyl (NBoc) by the reported procedure³² (Fig. 3(b)). As shown in Fig. 5(b), IR spectrum of **BrDesiBoc** showed signal at about 1690 cm⁻¹ which is assigned as -N-CO-O- unit by reaction of **BrDesi** (Fig. 5(a)) ESI-MS of **BrDesiBoc** is shown in Fig. 2(e). As shown in the figure, the molecular ion peak also observed as typical for dibromide such as **BrImipHCl** and **BrDesiHCl**. These results suggest chemical structure of **BrDesiBoc**.

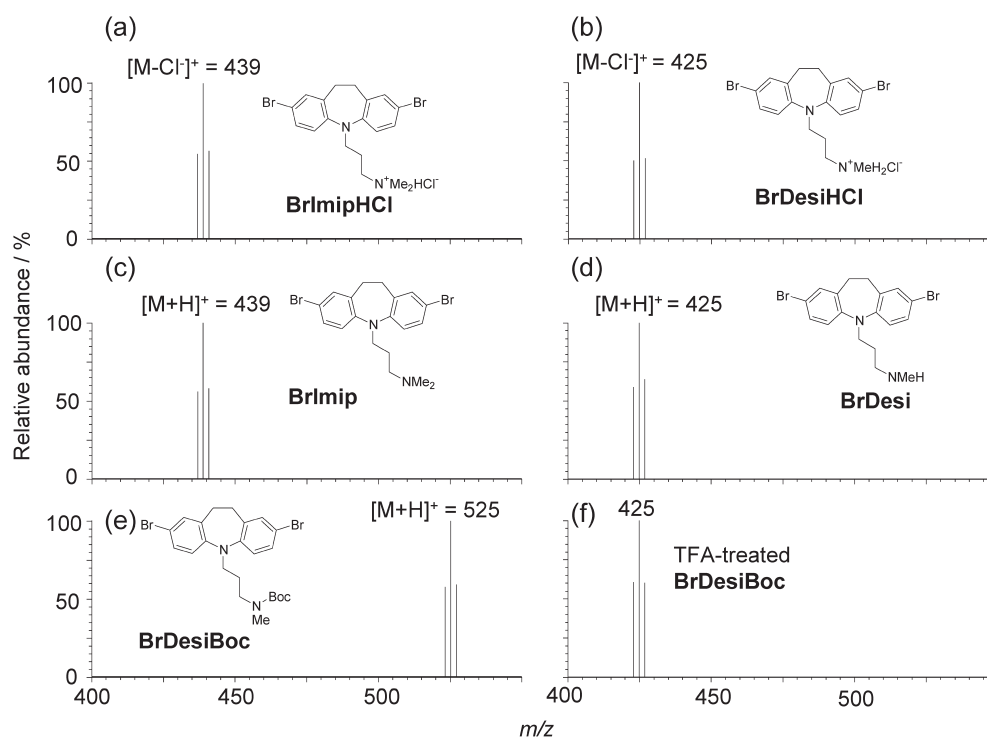


Fig. 2. ESI-MS of the dibromides.

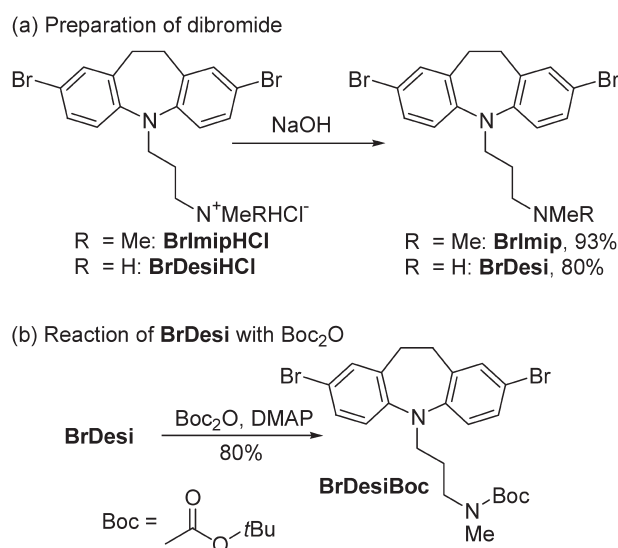


Fig. 3. Preparation scheme of dibromoimipramine and dibromodesipramine derivatives.

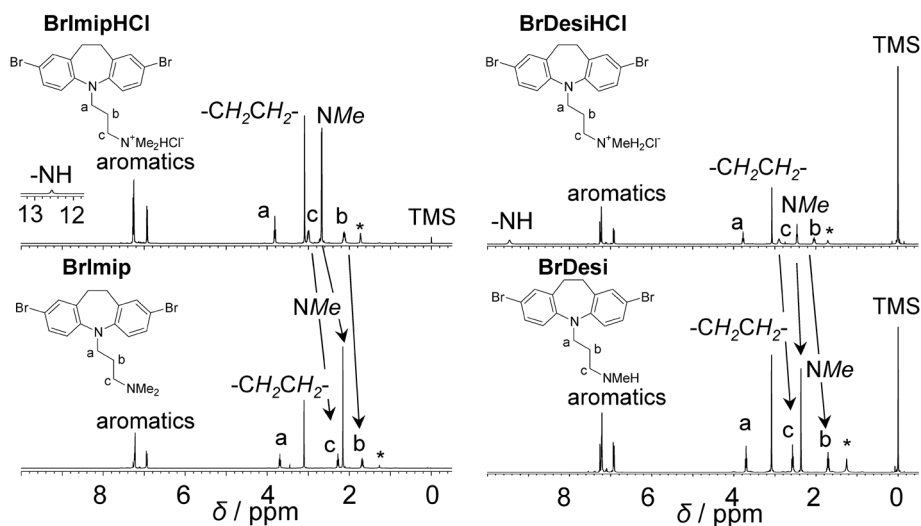


Fig. 4. Change of the ^1H NMR spectra of the dibromides by dehydrochlorination.

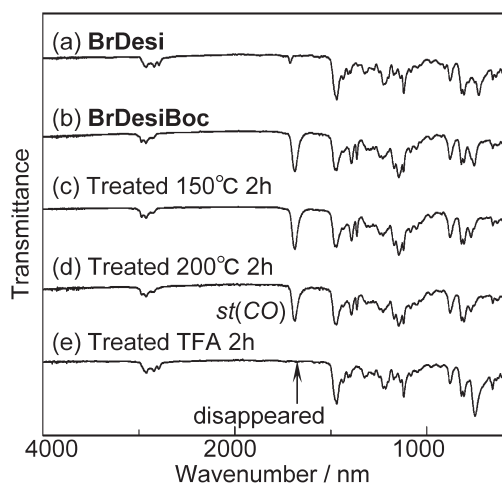


Fig. 5. IR spectra of **BrDesi**, **BrDesiBoc**, and reaction product of **BrDesiBoc**.

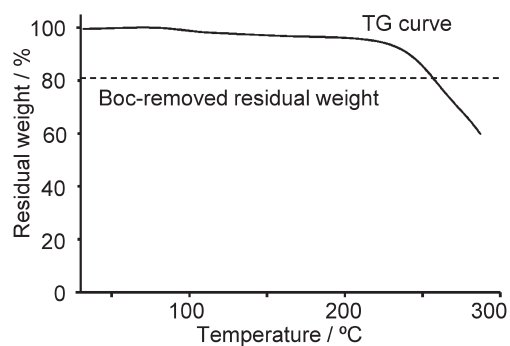


Fig. 6. TG curve of **BrDesiBoc**. Analyzed under air.

It is known that Boc works as protective group of NH because NBoc is converted to NH unit by heating³³⁾ or treatment of acid³²⁾. Therefore, **BrDesiBoc** was heated to

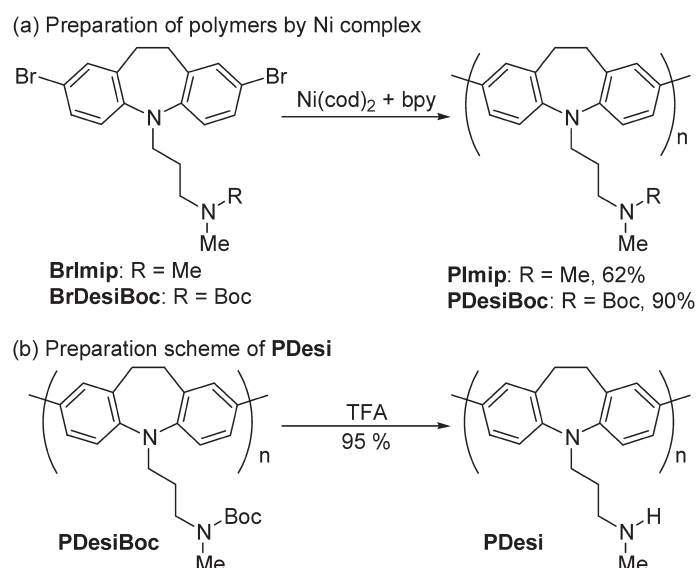


Fig. 7. Polymer preparation scheme.

Table 1. Results of polymerizations

Polymer	yield %	$M_w \times 10^{-3}^a$	$M_n \times 10^{-3}^a$	M_w/M_n
PImp	62	2.6	2.1	1.2
PDesiBoc	90	10.1	6.5	1.5

^aDetermined by GPC. Eluent was THF. Polystyrene standard.

150°C and 200°C, however, conversion of NBoc to NH was not observed (Fig. 5(c) and Fig. 5(d)). To investigate if NBoc of **BrDesiBoc** can be converted, thermogravimetric (TG) analysis was carried out, however, weight loss by cleavage of Boc was not observed like Boc-substituted diarylamines³²⁾ (Fig. 6). Therefore, **BrDesiBoc** was treated with TFA. As shown in Fig. 2(f) and Fig. 5(e), the MS and the IR spectrum of TFA-treated **BrDesiBoc** was same as **BrDesi**. This result suggests that Boc of **BrDesiBoc** works as protective group of NH of desipramine unit.

Polymerization of dibromides

It is known that coupling reaction of aromatic dihalide by using organometallic compound can afford relative polymers^{33–37)}. We reported preparation of dibenzazepine-containing copolymers by Suzuki-Miyaura coupling reaction by using **BrImipHCl**²⁶⁾ and **BrDesiHCl**²⁷⁾ as corresponding monomers.

On the other hand, our group prepared **PImp** and **PDesi** by oxidative polymerization of **ImipHCl** and **DesiHCl**, respectively²⁹⁾. Oxidative polymerization is very convenient method for preparation of poly(arylene) type polymer^{20,38,39)}, however, sometimes the juncture of obtained

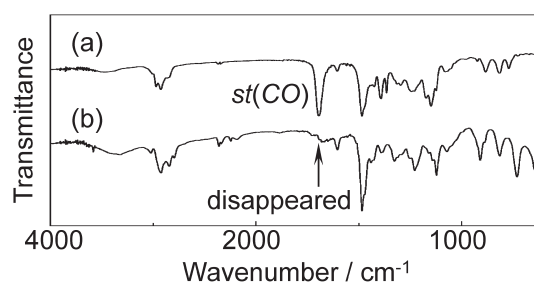


Fig. 8. IR spectra of (a) **PDesiBoc** and (b) **PDesi**.

polymer was not completely clear. To prepare poly(arylene) homopolymer with well-defined structure, dehalogenative polycondensations of aromatic dihalide by using organonickel process have been carried out³⁴⁾. Therefore, this type polymerizations are carried out as shown in Fig. 7(a). Results of polymerizations were shown in Table 1. **PImp** and **PDesiBoc** were soluble in CHCl_3 and THF. Solubility of **PImp** prepared by this method became higher than **PImp** prepared by oxidative polymerization because of forming well-defined structure like poly(phenazasiline)⁴⁰⁾.

As described above, the NBoc unit of the products expect to be converted to NH by TFA, therefore, **PDesiBoc** was treated with TFA as shown in Fig. 7(b). The change of IR spectra by the reaction is shown in Fig. 8. As shown in the figure, the signal assigned as originated from urea units at about 1690 cm^{-1} in **PDesiBoc** was disappeared due to the reaction. This suggest that Boc unit of **PDesiBoc** was completely cleaved by TFA and **PDesiBoc** was converted to **PDesi**.

The optical data of the polymers and corresponding

Table 2. Comparison of optical properties of the polymers and corresponding monomeric compounds

R	Polymer ^a	Absorption $\lambda_{\max}/\text{nm}^b$	Fluorescence $\lambda_{\max}/\text{nm}^{b,c}$	Monomeric compound ^a	Absorption $\lambda_{\max}/\text{nm}^b$
Me	PImp	321	410	Imp	256
H	PDesi	321 ^d	406 ^d	Desi	259
Boc	PDesiBoc	321	404	DesiBoc	259

^aChemical structure of the compounds are shown in Fig. 9(a). ^bCHCl₃ solution. ^cExcited at absorption λ_{\max} . ^dCHCl₃ soluble part.

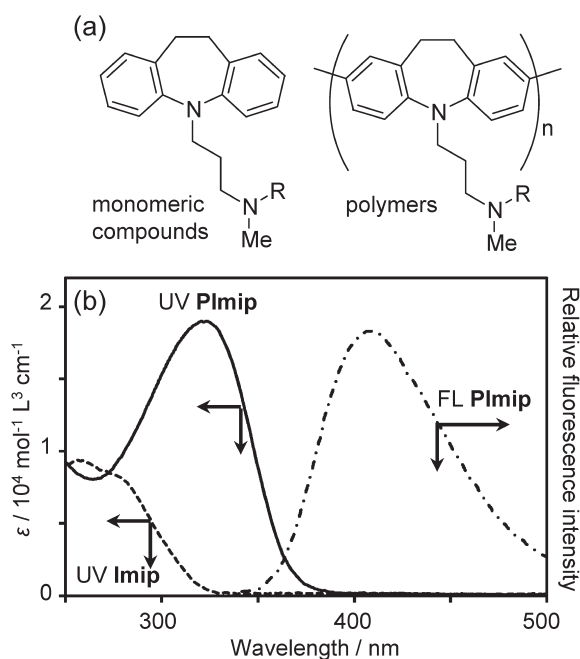


Fig. 9. (a) Chemical structure of the polymers and corresponding monomeric compounds and (b) absorption and fluorescent spectra of PImp and Imp.

monomeric compounds (Fig. 9 (a)) are shown in Table 2. Absorption λ_{\max} of the polymers was longer than that of corresponding monomeric compounds, suggesting that π -conjugation system was extended by polymerization such as phenazasiline derivatives²¹⁾. As exemplified in Fig. 9(b), as well as the case of poly(phenazasiline)²²⁾ and poly(diphenylamine)³⁷⁾, absorption λ_{\max} of the polymer was not changed by the substituent on the N atom of alkylamine unit. The polymers showed fluorescence, whereas the corresponding monomeric compounds did not show fluorescence.

Conclusions

Chemical modification of imipramine and desipramine were carried out. ESI-MS of dibrominated imipramine and desipramine derivatives (**BrImpHCl**, **BrDesiHCl** and **BrDesiBoc**) showed molecular ion peak with typical dibromide pattern. Further chemical modifications of the dibro-

mides were carried out by polymerizations. Optical properties of the polymers were changed by polymerizations. The compounds prepared in this manuscript are expected to become medically functional materials such as for detection by fluorometry and for bio-conjugation materials (like DNA or biopolymers).

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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