

Homopolymer of *p*- Bromophenyl Acrylamide

Fahd A. A. Tirkistani

Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Applied Science, Umm Al-Qura University, Makkah Al Mokkaramah, P.O.Box 7655, Saudi Arabia
drfahd999@gmail.com

Summary

Poly (*p*-bromophenyl acrylamide) (PBPA) homopolymer was prepared and characterized. Thermal degradation products of the polymer were identified by GC-MS technique. It seems that the mechanism of degradation of PBPA homopolymer is characterized by free radical formation followed by recombination along the backbone chain. The activation energy of thermal degradation of the homopolymer was calculated using Arrhenius equation.

Key words: Homopolymers, Acrylamide, Bromophenyl.

1. INTRODUCTION

The non-flammability properties of halogenated polymeric materials has been given a great deal of attention in the last few years, their thermal decomposition and thermal stability properties are of particular interest¹⁻³.

There are various general mechanisms of fire retardance in polymeric materials^{4,5}.

- i. A heat barrier may be formed by physically covering the polymer with a reflecting intumescent coating which reduces heat transfer from the heat source to the polymer so that polymer degradation is inhibited.
- ii. The concentration of combustible gases may be diluted by the production of an inert gas such as carbon dioxide and nitrogen.
- iii. A dust may be produced which acts as a heterogeneous catalyst in deactivating the radicals involved in flame propagation.
- iv. The proportion of volatile inflammable products may be reduced and the proportion of in volatile char increased.
- v. The degradation and decomposition reactions may be modified to produce non-flammable volatiles (usually halogenated species). The last of these is perhaps the most important of the flame retardant mechanisms because of the

relatively small proportion of flame retardant required for a significant effect. Unlike inert gases, halogens or halogen derivatives strongly affect the flame velocity in concentrations of less than one per cent. The flame propagation cycle involves radical species such as H. and OH. radicals. Halogen compounds react with these radicals in the following way:



The radical R. will be less reactive than the H. radical which it replaces so this substitution results in flame inhibition.

In this paper, thermal stability of poly (*p*-bromophenyl acrylamide) (PBPA) homopolymer is reported by thermogravimetric analysis. Thermal degradation of the polymer is studied using GC-MS apparatus.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

Materials

Acryloyl chloride (AC) (Aldrich Chemical Co., Inc.) was degassed, twice distilled on a vacuum line, stored over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and kept below -18°C in a tightly stoppered flask. 2,2 Azobisisobutyronitrile (AIBN) (Aldrich Chemical Co., Inc.) was used as initiator for polymerization.

It was purified by dissolving in hot ethanol and filtering⁶. The solution was left to cool, the pure material then being collected by filtration and dried under vacuum.

p-Bromoaniline (BA)(BDH Chemical Ltd.), was purified by distillation under atmospheric pressure⁷.

Preparation of monomer and polymer

p-Bromophenyl acrylamide (BPA) monomer was prepared by the reaction of equimolar amounts of AC and BA using dry benzene as solvent in an ice bath. This process is similar to the one reported of the preparation of acryloyl hydrazine, *N*-(β -ethyl amino) acryloyl and *N*-[2, (6-aminopyridino)] acrylamide⁸.

Poly (*p*-bromophenyl acrylamide) (PBPA) homopolymer was prepared by refluxing the formed BA monomer with dimethylformamide (DMF)(50/50 v/v) as solvent and 0.2 w/v % AIBN as initiator for two hours. The polymer product was precipitated by pouring in distilled water. PBPA homopolymer was washed with water and dried in a vacuum oven at 40°C for several days.

Analytical Techniques:

Infrared Spectroscopy (IR):

Spectra of the polymer sample were recorded on a Pye Unicam SP 2000 spectrometry in the form KBr discs.

Microanalysis:

Elemental analysis of the polymer sample was performed by Microanalytical Unit at King Abd El Aziz University.

Thermal Gravimetric Analysis (TG):

TG measurements were made with a Mettler TG 3000 apparatus. Finely powdered (~ 10 mg) samples were heated at 10 °C/min in a dynamic nitrogen atmosphere (30 ml/min); the sample holder was boat-shaped, 10 mm x 5 mm x 2.5 mm deep and the temperature

measuring thermocouple was placed 1 mm from the sample holder.

TG was also used for the determination of rates of degradation of the polymer in the initial stages of decomposition. The activation energy was calculated by application of Arrhenius equation.

Thermal Degradation of the Polymer:

Sample of ~ 50 mg was heated under vacuum from ambient temperature to 500 °C. The volatile degradation product was collected for qualitative analysis by GC - MS technique. A Saturn GC 3400 with a fused quartz capillary column of 30 m x 0.25 mm coated with methylsilicon, under programmed heating condition from 60 to 200 °C was used for their identification of the condensable degradation products. The GC is interfaced with a Varian mass spectrometer.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characterization of PBPA homopolymer:

For BPA monomer which was prepared by the reaction of equimolar amounts of AC and *p*-bromophenol in dry benzene until the evolution of hydrogen chloride ceased forming a brown powder of BPA monomer (M.W. 226). (Microanalysis, found N, 6.2%. Calcd. for C₉H₈ONBr, N, 6.19%).

IR spectrum of PBPA homopolymer (Figure 1) shows two medium broad bands at 3290 and 3441 cm⁻¹ assigned to symmetric and asymmetric stretching vibrations of the amino group. The band at 1680 cm⁻¹ is assigned to the antisymmetric stretching vibration of amidic carbonyl group. The bands at 1600, 1545 and 1440 cm⁻¹ are assigned to the ν (C-H), ν (C=C) and ν (C-C) bands, respectively⁹.

The C-H in plane deformation in the region 1225-1025 cm⁻¹, the ring breathing at 995 and 1005 cm⁻¹, the out-of-plane C-H deformation vibration between 775 and 750

cm^{-1} and the C-C out-of-plane deformation at 500 cm^{-1} are assigned.

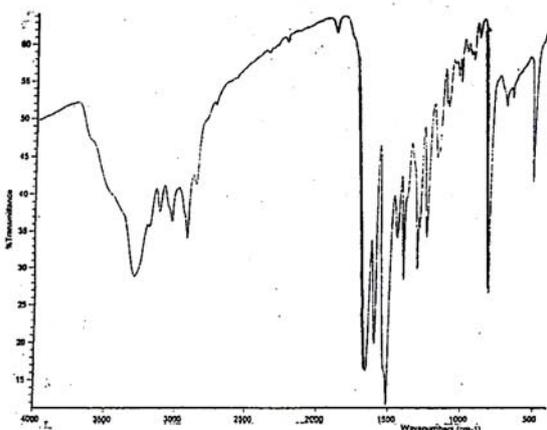


Fig. 1: IR Spectrum of PBPA homopolymer

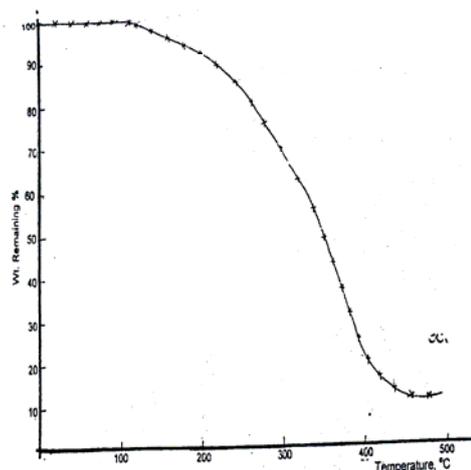


Fig (2): TG curve of PBPA homopolymer.

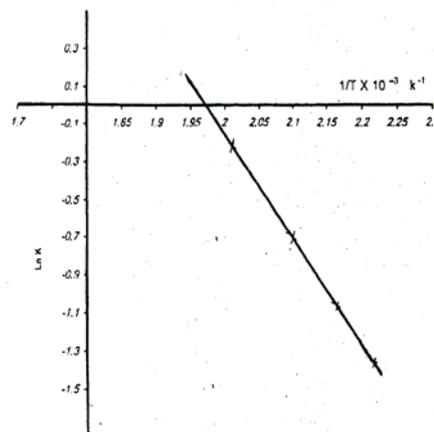
Thermal methods of analysis:

Thermogravimetry (TG):

TG curve of PBPA homopolymer is shown in Figure 2. There are two degradation stages, the first starts at $\sim 110^{\circ}\text{C}$ with a weight loss 52%. The second stage starts at $\sim 310^{\circ}\text{C}$ with a weight loss of 40%. The effective activation energy of the thermal degradation of PBPA homopolymer was determined from the temperature dependence of the chain rupture rate. The rate constant of the thermal degradation was plotted according to the Arrhenius relationship (Figure 3). The activation energy of the homopolymer was found to be 69 KJ/mole. This value is smaller than the value obtained for poly(8-quinolyl acrylate) and poly(acrylamidophenol) homopolymers^{10,11}. Therefore, PBPA homopolymer will undergo decomposition more readily than these homopolymers.

Thermal degradation products of PBPA homopolymer:

50 mg of PBPA homopolymer was heated under vacuum from ambient temperature to 500°C . The volatile product of degradation was collected in a small gas cell for identification by IR spectroscopy.



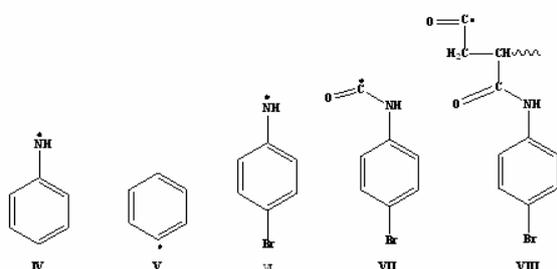
HBr, benzene, bromobenzene, aniline, *p*-bromoaniline and ammonia were among the degradation products of PBPA homopolymer.

The liquid fractions from the degradation of the homopolymer were injected into the GC-MS apparatus. Figure 4 shows the GC trace for the liquid products of degradation of PBPA homopolymer at 500°C .

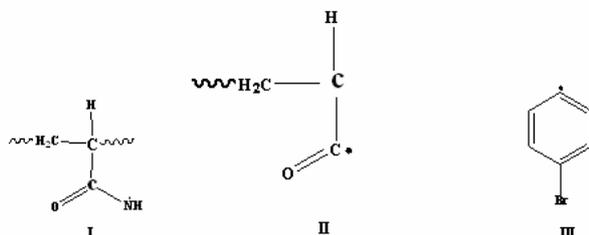
Table 1 gives the results of degradation products which were identified by mass spectroscopy. Some of the peaks could not be identified due to the lack of reference materials or due to the uncleaned mass spectra. The numerous degradation products of PBPA

homopolymer indicate that the mechanism of degradation is characterized by the elimination of low-molecular weight radicals, rather than monomer formation in the early stages of degradation, followed by random scission mechanism along the backbone chain. It seems that the break down of PBPA homopolymer occurs mainly in the C-N bond producing the radicals.

These radicals abstract H- and produce HBr, benzene, bromobenzene, aniline, *p*-bromoaniline and ammonia as major products.



Compound 1 in the GC curve listed in Table 1 could be found by a dimerization reaction of VI.



The mass spectrum of the assignment of structure 2 is a termination reaction of the radicals III and VII.

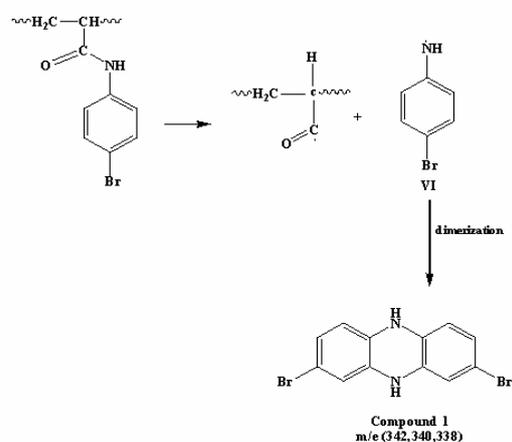
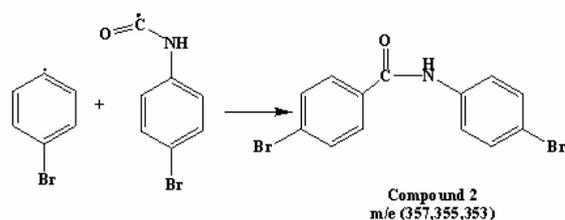
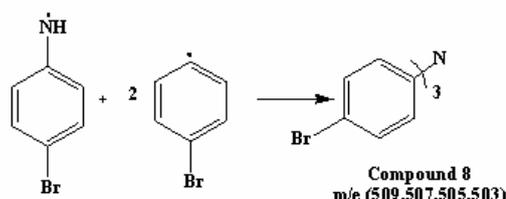
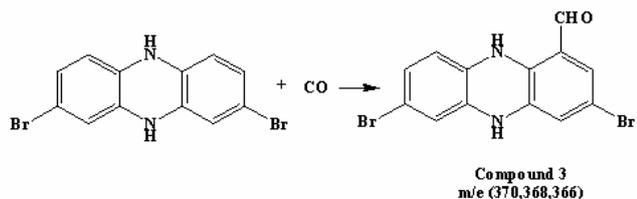


Table 1: GC-MS data of the liquid of the thermal degradation of PBPA homopolymer

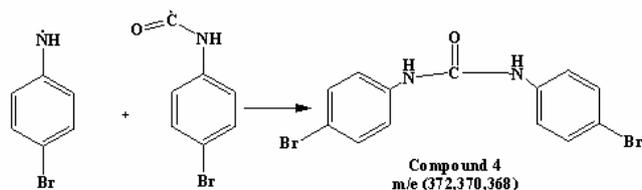
Compound No.	Retention time, min	Major MS fragments	Suggested Structure (Most probable)
1	6.84	(342, 340, 338) (261, 259, 182, 168, 152, 140, 129, 104, 75, 61, 47)	
2	8.96	(357, 355, 353) (274, 272), 198, 166, 141, 115, 85, 75, 61, 48)	
3	9.91	(370, 368, 366), (287, 285), 213, 167, 150, 139, 129, 107, 91, 75, 61	
4	11.52	(372, 370, 368), (289, 287), 215, 187, 155, 127, 100, 85, 67, 55	
5	12.35	(400, 398, 396), (317, 315), 241, 227, 213, 195, 182, 141, 75, 61, 55	
6	13.92	(405, 403, 401), (372, 370), 357, 291, 258, 241, 227, 213, 193, 141, 75, 61, 84	Unidentified
7	14.67	(428, 426, 424), (345, 343), 266, 259, 241, 227, 216, 188, 160, 151, 129, 101, 61	
8	15.26	(509, 507, 505, 503), (424, 422, 420), (345, 343), 244, 216, 204, 175, 160, 132, 107, 91, 65, 55	
9	16.73	(424, 422, 420), (341, 339), 262, 246, 230, 218, 204, 160, 143, 129, 120, 84, 61	
10	17.84	301, 283, 259, 257, 241, 209, 183, 129, 101, 61, 48	Polyene Structure



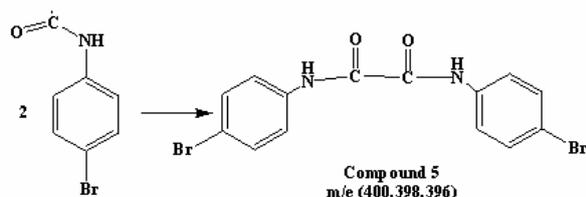
The suggested structure of compound 3 is a reaction of the assignment structure of compound 1 and carbon monoxide.



It seems that compound 4 is formed by a reaction between the radicals VI and VII.

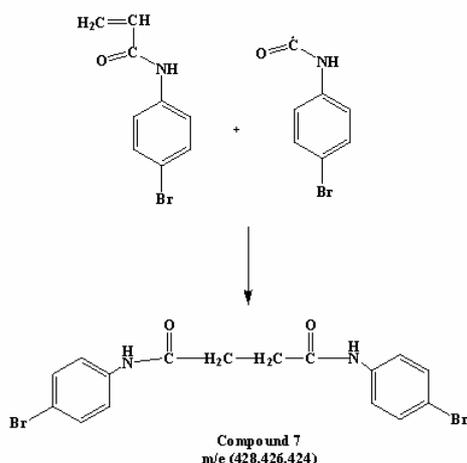


The assignment of structure 5 is a dimerization reaction of VI.



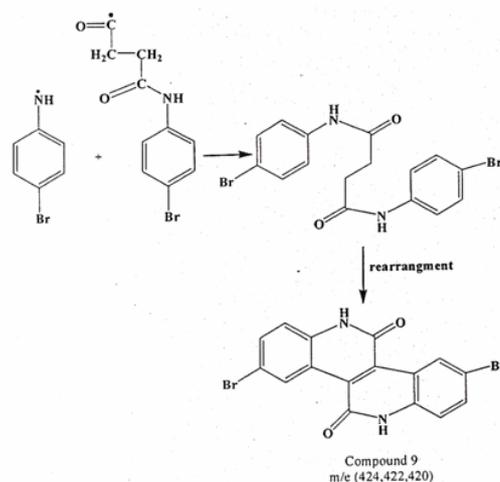
unidentified.

Compound 7 could be formed from the reaction of BPA monomer and the radical VII.



Compound 8 is a termination of IV and two radical of III.

The mass spectrum of the assignment structure 9 is a termination reaction of the radicals VI and VIII followed by rearrangement to give the compound 9.



The major mass fragment of compound 10 gives a loss of mass either 14 or 13 indicating that it is a chain polyene fragment. The - degradation behaviour of polyene is like polyolefm degradation [Loan & Winslow (1976) and Chien & Kiang (1978)] which produced chain fragments between C₆-C₆₀.

According to the degradation products, it seems that the mechanism of degradation of PBPA homopolymer is characterized by free radical formation followed by random scission or combination of these radical along the backbone chain are the main source of the degradation products.

4. REFERENCES

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الملخص العربي

الثبات والتكسير الحرارى للهوموبوليمار المصاحب للبروموفينيل اكريلاميد

فهد التركستاني

قسم الكيمياء - كلية العلوم التطبيقية - مكة المكرمة - المملكة العربية السعودية

يتضمن هذا البحث تحضير بولى (بارا - برومو فينول اكريلاميد) ودراسة الثبات الحرارى له باستخدام التحليل الحرارى الوزنى ، وكذلك يشتمل هذا البحث التعرف على نواتج التكسير الحرارى للبوليمر المحضر باستخدام مطياف الكتلة المتصل بالكروماتوجراف الغازى. وضحت ميكانيكية التكسير الحرارى. كذلك تم قياس طاقة التنشيط للتكسير الحرارى للبوليمر باستخدام معادلة أرهينيوس.