Biaxial mesophase behavior of amphiphilic anisometric colloids: A simulation study

S. D. Peroukidis

Department of Materials Science, University of Patras, Patras 26504, GREECE

Supplementary Information

S1. Calculation of the principal axes frame

In order to quantify the orientational order for a given configuration of the molecules within the simulation box, we have calculated the principal axes $\hat{X}_p, \hat{Y}_p, \hat{Z}_p$ that are determined through the diagonalization of the ordering matrix tensors $[R1]

$$Q_A^a = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} [3(\alpha_i A)(\alpha_i B) - \delta_{AB}]$$

(1)

with $\alpha_i = \hat{x}_i$ or $\hat{y}_i$ or $\hat{z}_i$ the molecular axes of the $i$th molecule and $A, B = \hat{X}, \hat{Y}, \hat{Z}$ denote the axes of the simulation box. The principal axis $(\hat{X}_p$ or $\hat{Y}_p$ or $\hat{Z}_p)$ that corresponds to the maximum positive eigenvalue of the ordering tensors $Q_A^a$, defines the principal director $\hat{n}$ of the phase. The secondary director, $\hat{l}$, is associated with the molecular axis exhibiting the second largest alignment and the third axis of the phase is given by $\hat{m} = \hat{n} \times \hat{l}$.

S2. Phase diagrams for systems with $l^* = 11$, $w^* < 2.4$ and $R^* = 0.5$.

In this section we have examined the phase behavior of anisometric particles (see Fig. 1a main manuscript) with $l^* = 11$, $w^* < 2.4$ and $R^* = 0.5$ using MC-NpT simulations. The systems consist of $N=760$ particles. The equation of state for each system is obtained by compression from the isotropic state or by expansion series from the smectic phase (see Fig. S2.1 (left)). The pressure dependence of the order
parameters $S^z$, $D^{xy}$ is presented in Fig. S2.1 (right). Representative snapshots of the mesophases are given in Fig. S2.2.

The long range positional order has been examined using the usual radial pair correlation functions $g(r) = \left\langle \sum_{i \neq j} \delta \left( r - r_{ij} \right) \right\rangle$ and the corresponding distributions $g_\parallel (r_\parallel) = \left\langle \sum_{i \neq j} \delta \left( r_{ij} - |\vec{r}_{ij} \cdot \hat{n}| \right) \right\rangle$ and $g_\perp (r_\perp) = \left\langle \sum_{i \neq j} \delta \left( r_{ij} - r_{ij}^\perp \right) \right\rangle$ of the projection of the intermolecular vector $\vec{r}_{ij}$ (of molecules $i, j$) parallel and vertical to the macroscopic principal director $\hat{n}$ of the SmA phase; with $r_{ij}^\perp = \sqrt{r_{ij}^2 - |\vec{r}_{ij} \cdot \hat{n}|^2}$. It is evident that the nematic phase lacks long range positional order. A layered structure is shown from the snapshot of the SmA phase as well as from the radial correlation function (see Fig. S2.3c).
Fig. S2.1. Left: Equation of state for systems consisting of anisometric particles (see Fig. 1a). The data points obtained by MC-NpT simulations: the squares correspond to compression series from an isotropic phase and the circles to expansion series from the SmA phase obtained by compression. Right: pressure dependence of the order parameters $S^{z}$, $D^{x,y}$. The data points correspond to compression series. Molecular geometry: $l^{x}=11$, $R^{x}=0.5$ and (a) $w^{x}=1.6$ and (b) $w^{x}=2.0$. 
Fig. S2.2 Representative snapshots for a system consisting of $N=760$ anisometric particles with: $l^* = 11$, $w^* = 2.2$, and $R^* = 0.5$: (a) in the $N$ phase at $p^* = 0.14$ and (b) in the $SmA$ phase at $p^* = 0.22$. 
Fig. S2.3 Calculated pair correlation functions for a system consisting anisometric particles with $l^* = 11$, $w^* = 2.2$, and $R^* = 0.5$ (see Fig.1a) in the $N_+$ (black line) phase at $p^* = 0.14$ and in the $SmA$ phase (red line) at $p^* = 0.22$. (a) $g(r)$, (b) $g_\perp(r_\perp)$ and (c) $g_\parallel(r_\parallel)$. 

$g(r)$

$r/d$, $r_\perp/d$, $r_\parallel/d$
S3. Pair Correlation functions for a system with $l^* = 11$, $w^* = 2.4$ and $R^* = 0.5$.

Fig. S3.1 Calculated pair correlation functions for a system consisting anisometric particles with $l^* = 11$, $w^* = 2.4$, and $R^* = 0.5$, (see Fig. 1a) in the $N_{b+}$ (black line) phase at $\rho^* = 0.145$ and in the SmA phase (red line) at $\rho^* = 0.17$. (a) $g(r)$, (b) $g_\perp(r_\perp)$ and (c) $g_\parallel(r_\parallel)$. 
**S4. System with** $l^* = 11$, $w^* = \sqrt{11}$ **and** $R^* = 0.5$.

Fig. S4.1. Pressure dependence of the order parameters $S_n^z$, $S_n^x$, $D^{y,z}$, $D^{x,y}$ for systems consisting of (a) $N=600$ particles and (b) $N=1500$. The closed symbols correspond to compression series and the open symbols to expansion series. The horizontal lines are at 0 (solid) and at 0.1 (dotted) and are used to guide the eye.
Fig. S4.2. Plot of the $g_{222}(r)$ calculated for systems with $l' = 11$, $w' = \sqrt{11}$ and $R' = 0.5$ (see Fig. 1a), consisting of $N=4410$ (black line), $N=1500$ (green line) and $N=600$ (red line) particles, calculated at the same pressure $p^* = 0.18$. The horizontal blue-line is at 0 and is used to guide the eye.
Fig. S4.3 Calculated pair correlation functions for a system consisting anisometric molecules with $l^*=11$, $w^* = \sqrt{11}$, and $R^* = 0.5$ (see Fig. 1a) in the SmA phase at $p^* = 0.18$. (a) $g(r)$, (b) $g_{||}(r_{\perp})$ and (c) $g_{\perp}(r_{||})$. 
S5. System with \( l^* = 11, w^* = \sqrt{11}, R^* = 0.5 \). (see Fig.1b).

Fig. S5. Contour maps of the calculated correlation function \( g_0^{L,S}(x, y) \) at \( p^* = 0.18 \), in the SmA phase. The maximum (that are shown by red arrows) indicate a tendency for the formation of local triangular supermolecular clusters within the layers.
**S6. System with** $l^* = 11$, $w^* = \sqrt{11}$ and $R^* = 2.0$ (see Fig. 1c).

![Graph of $g_\perp(r_\perp)$](image1)

**Fig. S6.1** Calculated pair correlation function $g_\perp(r_\perp)$ in the $Lam_{Nb}$ phase at $P^* = 0.06$ (black line) and in the $Col_s$ phase at $P^* = 0.14$ (red line).

![Graph of $g_{2u}(r)$](image2)

**Fig. S6.2.** Calculated pair correlation functions $g_{2u}(r) = \left< \sum_{i,j} P_z \left( \hat{u}_i \cdot \hat{u}_j \right) (r) \right>$ with $u = x$ or $z$ in the $Lam_{Nb}$ phase at $P^* = 0.06$ and in the $Col_s$ phase at $P^* = 0.14$.
S7. Systems with $l^* = 11$, $w^* = 8$ and $R^* = 2.0$.

Fig. S7.1 Equation of state for a system consisting of $N=686$ anisometric particles with $l^* = 11$, $w^* = 8$, and $R^* = 2.0$ (see Fig. 1d). The data points obtained by MC-NpT simulations and correspond to compression from an isotropic phase.

Fig. S7.2 Representative snapshots for a system consisting of $N=686$ anisometric particles with: $l^* = 11$, $w^* = 8$, and $R^* = 2.0$. (a) in the $Lam_{Nb}$ at $p^*=0.30$ and (b) in the $Col$ phase at $p^*=0.75$. 
Fig. S7.3 Left: Equation of state for a system consisting of $N=588$ anisometric particles with $l' = 11$, $w' = 11$, and $R' = 2.0$ (see Fig. 1d). The data points obtained by MC-$NpT$ simulations and correspond to compression from an isotropic phase. Right: pressure dependence of the order parameters.
References of the supplementary file