Electronic Supporting Information

Dysprosium electrodeposition from a hexaalkylguanidinium-based ionic liquid

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Synthesis and characterisation of the hexaalkylguanidinium-based ionic liquids mentioned in Table 1 of main manuscript

General information

The required guanidinium-based ionic liquids were synthesised along two routes (Scheme 1). The salt $[N_{11}N_{22}N_{44}Gua]OTf$ (1) was prepared from tetramethylurea, triflic anhydride and dibutylamine by analogy to a procedure for similar hexaalkylguanidinium triflates.³ Guanidinium tetrafluoroborate **2b** as well as guanidinium bis(triflyl)imides **3** and **4** were obtained from the corresponding hexaalkylguanidinium chlorides II (or IV) by anion exchange reactions. The hexaalkylguanidinium chlorides in turn were prepared from tetraalkylchloroformamidinium chlorides I (III) by an adaptation of the classical procedure.²



Scheme 1 Synthesis of guanidinium-based ionic liquids 1–4. (i) 1. $(CF_3SO_2)_2O$; 2. Bu_2NH ; (ii) R^3_2NH , Et_3N , acetonitrile; (iii) NaBF₄, CH_2Cl_2 ; (iv) $LiN(SO_2CF_3)_2$, H_2O ; (v) Me_2N –SiMe₃, CHCl₃. Tf = CF₃SO₂.

Materials and Methods

Rigorously dried organic solvents were used. All amines were dried with KOH pellets and distilled prior to use. Lithium bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)imide (99%) was purchased from Acros Organics. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX 400 spectrometer (¹H: 400.13 MHz; ¹³C: 100.61 MHz; ¹⁹F: 376.46 MHz). ¹H NMR spectra were referenced to the residual proton signal of the solvent (δ (CDCl₃) = 7.26 ppm). ¹³C spectra were referenced to the solvent signal (δ (CDCl₃) = 77.00 ppm), and ¹⁹F spectra to C₆F₆ in CDCl₃ (δ (C₆F₆) = -162.9 ppm). IR spectra were recorded with a Bruker Vector 22 FTIR spectrometer. Thermogravimetric analysis

was performed with a Mettler-Toledo TGA/SDTA 851 instrument (T_{dec} = temperature of highest decomposition gradient) and differential scanning calorimetry with a Perkin Elmer DSC 7 instrument (T_g = glass transition temperature). Microanalyses were obtained with an Elementar vario MICRO cube instrument.

N,N-Dibutyl-N',N',N'',N''-tetramethylguanidinium trifluoromethanesulfonate (1, $[N_{11}N_{11}N_{44}Gua]OTf$)

Bis(N,N,N',N')-tetramethylamidinio)ether bis(triflate) was prepared from tetramethylurea and triflic anhydride according to published procedures.^{1,3} To a suspension of this salt (5.00 g, 9.7 mmol) in dichloromethane (30 mL), cooled at 0 °C, was added dibutylamine (3.3 mL, 19.4 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) and the mixture was successively stirred at 0 °C for 30 min, at 20 °C for 1 h and at reflux temperature for 2 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solution was concentrated on a rotary evaporator and tetramethylurea was extracted with pentane (10 mL). The lower phase was isolated, diluted with CH₂Cl₂ and washed with dilute aqueous NaOH (0.1 M). The organic phase was dried (Na_2SO_4) and the solvent was evaporated. The desired product was obtained as a light yellow oil; yield: 2.87 g (78%). $-T_{dec} = 456$ °C, $T_g = -73$ °C. -1H NMR (CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.93-0.96$ (t, ${}^{3}J = 7.3$ Hz, 6 H, CH₃CH₂), 1.20-1.65 (several m, 8 H, CH₃CH₂CH₂CH₂N), 2.98 and 3.03 (2 s, each 6 H, NCH₃), 3.05–3.20 (m, 4 H, NCH₂) ppm. – ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): $\delta = 13.7$ (CH₃CH₂), 20.0 (CH₃CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂N), 29.6 (CH₃CH₂CH₂CH₂N), 40.4 (NCH₃), 49.3 (NCH₂), 163.3 (CN₃) ppm. - ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): $\delta = -74.7$ ppm. - IR (NaCl): v =2962 (s), 2936 (s), 2876 (m), 1593 (s), 1568 (s), 1464 (m), 1435 (m), 1411 (m), 1268 (s), 1224 (m), 1150 (s), 1032 (s), 897 (s) cm⁻¹. – MS (CI): m/z = 228 (100%, [cation]⁺). – Anal. for C₁₄H₃₀F₃N₃O₅S (377.47): calcd. C 44.55, H 8.01, N 11.13%; found C 44.59, H 8.49, N 11.15%.

N,N-Dibutyl-N',N'-diethyl-N'',N''-dihexylguanidinium tetrafluoroborate (2b, $[N_{22}N_{44}N_{66}Gua]BF_4$)

N,*N*-Dibutyl-*N*',*N*'-diethyl-*N*'',*N*''-dihexylguanidinium chloride (**IIb**) was prepared from *N*,*N*-dibutyl-*N*',*N*'-diethylchloroformamidinium chloride² (**Ib**) as described.⁴ Salt **IIb** (5.0 g, 11.6 mmol) was dissolved in dichloromethane (20 mL), sodium tetrafluoroborate (1.8 g, 16.7 mmol) was added, and the suspension was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The precipitate was filtered off and washed with dichloromethane. The combined organic phases were dried (Na₂SO₄), stirred over charcoal for 15 min and filtered. The solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator, and the product was dried for 8 h at 80 °C/0.05 mbar in a Kugelrohr apparatus. The product was obtained as a colourless oil; yield: 4.9 g (88%). – $T_{dec} = 462$ °C, $T_g = -71$ °C. – ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.84$ –0.98 (several overlapping t, 12 H, 4 CH₃ of Hex and Bu), 1.18–1.78 (several m and t, 30 H, NCH₂CH₃, NCH₂(CH₂)₂CH₃ and NCH₂(CH₂)₄CH₃), 2.98–3.44 (several m, 12 H, NCH₂) ppm. – ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): $\delta = 12.76$, 12.77, 13.60, 13.63, 13.87 and 13.88 (CH₃); 19.99, 20.03, 22.46, 22.48, 26.47, 26.51, 27.36, 27.38, 29.44, 29.49, 31.23 and 31.28 (ICH₂)₂CH₃ and (CH₂)₄CH₃); 43.80 and 43.83 (NCH₂CH₃); 49.32, 49.40, 49.56 and 49.58 (NCH₂ of Hex and Bu); 163.9 (CN₃) ppm. – IR (NaCl): v = 2958 (s), 2933 (s), 2873 (m), 1539 (s), 1460 (m), 1440 (m), 1380 (m), 1311 (m), 1056 (s), 792 (w) cm⁻¹. – MS (CI): *m/z* = 396

(100%, [cation]⁺). – Anal. for $C_{25}H_{54}BF_4N_3$ (483.52): calcd. C 62.10, H 11.26, N 8.69%; found C 61.96, H 12.07, N 8.75%.

N,N-Dibutyl-N',N'-diethyl-N'',N''- $dimethylguanidinium bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)imide (3a, [<math>N_{11}N_{22}N_{44}Gua$]TFSI)

The synthesis and spectroscopic/analytical characterisation of this room-temperature ionic liquid has been published.⁴

N,N,N',N'-Tetramethyl-N",N"-pentamethyleneguanidinium bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)imide (**3c**, $[N_{11}N_{11}N_{pip}Gua]TFSI$) N-((dimethylamino)(piperidin-1-yl)methylene)-N-methylmethanaminium chloride

The synthesis and spectroscopic/analytical characterisation of this room-temperature ionic liquid has been published.⁵

N,N-Dimethyl-N',N'-pentamethylene-N'',N''-pentamethylene-guanidinium bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)imide (4, $[N_{11}N_{pip}N_{pip}Gua]TFSI$)

a) *1-(Chloro(piperidin-1-yl)methylene)piperidin-1-ium chloride* (**III**). 1,1-Carbonyldipiperidine (3.3 g, 16.6 mmol) dissolved in dry CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of freshly distilled oxalyl chloride (1.6 mL, 18.3 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) under an argon atmosphere. The solution was heated at reflux for 9 h (evolution of CO and CO₂), then the solvent was evaporated at 15 mbar. The remaining solid was washed with several portions of dry diethyl ether until the washing ether was colourless (removal of excess oxalyl chloride, unreacted urea and coloured impurities). After drying for 3 h at 20 °C/0.05 mbar, the product was obtained as a yellow moisture-sensitive powder; yield: 4.0 g (95%). – ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 1.75–1.90 (m, 6 H, 3-H_{pip}, 4-H_{pip}, 5-H_{pip}), 3.95-4.05 (m 4 H, 2-H_{pip}, 6-H_{pip}) ppm.

b) *N*-(*Di*(*piperidin-1-yl*)*methylene*)-*N*-*methylmethanaminium chloride* (**IV**). A solution of salt **III** (1.1 g, 4.5 mmol) in dry chloroform (10 mL) was cooled at 0 °C. A solution of dimethyl(trimethylsilyl)amine (0.8 mL, 4.95 mmol) in dry CHCl₃ (5 mL) was added in small portions under an argon atmosphere and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 1.5 h. After cooling, the volatile components were evaporated on a rotary evaporator (40 °C/40 mbar). The remaining solid was recrystallised from dry ethyl acetate/dimethylformamide (2:1, v/v). The colourless hygroscopic crystals were dried for 8 h at 80 °C/0.05 mbar. Yield: 0.9 g (79%); m. p. 205 °C. – TGA: $T_{dec} = 322$ °C. – ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): $\delta = 1.55$ –1.75 (m, 12 H, 3-H_{pip}, 4-H_{pip}, 5-H_{pip}), 3.04 (s, 6 H, NCH₃), 3.20–3.40 (m, 8 H, 2-H_{pip}, 6-H_{pip}) ppm. – ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): $\delta = 23.2$ (C-4_{pip}), 25.0 and 25.1 (C-3_{pip}, C-5_{pip}), 40.9 (NCH₃), 50.1 and 50.2 (C-2_{pip}, C-6_{pip}), 162.3 (CN₃) ppm. – IR (ATR): v = 2936 (m), 2854 (m), 1577 (s), 1552 (s), 1446 (m), 1416 (m), 1379 (m), 1283 (m), 1258 (m), 862 (m) cm⁻¹. – Anal. for C₁₃H₂₆ClN₃×0.5H₂O (259.81 + 9.00): calcd. C 58.08, H, 10.12, N 15.63%; found C 58.25, H 10.35, N 15.75%.

c) Anion exchange, synthesis of 4: Solutions of salt IV (0.60 g, 2.3 mmol) and of lithium bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)imide (0.70 g, 2.3 mmol) in deionised water (5 mL each) were combined, whereby two phases appeared instantly. After stirring the mixture at 70 °C for 30 min, it was cooled to room temperature and dichloromethane (20 mL) was added. The organic phase was separated and washed with several portions of deionised water until a test on chloride ions in the rinsing water (AgNO₃) was negative. The organic phase was dried with Na₂SO₄, stirred over charcoal for 15 min and filtered. The solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator, and the product was dried for 8 h at 120 °C/0.05 mbar in a Kugelrohr apparatus. The product was obtained as a colourless oil; yield: 1.0 g (86%). $- T_{dec} = 461$ °C, $T_g = -62$ °C. $- {}^{1}H$ NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 1.63–1.78 (m, 12 H, 3-H_{pip}, 4-H_{pip}, 5-H_{pip}), 2.99 (s, 6 H, NCH₃), 3.20–3.35 (m, 8 H, 2-H_{pip}, 6-H_{pip}) ppm. – ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 23.4 (4-C_{pip}), 25.0 and 25.2 (3-C_{pip}, 5-C_{pip}); 40.6 (NCH₃), 50.17 and 50.18 (2-C_{pip}, 6-C_{pip}), 118.6 and 121.1 (CF₃), 162.5 (CN₃) ppm. – ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): $\delta = -75.2$ ppm. – IR (NaCl): $\nu = 2946$ (s), 2868 (s), 1560 (s), 1449 (s), 1428 (s), 1350 (s), 1285 (s), 1259 (s), 1187 (s), 1135 (s), 1057 (s), 1015 (m), 920 (m), 872 (m) cm⁻¹. – MS (CI): m/z = 224 (100%, [cation]⁺). – Anal. for C₁₅H₂₆F₆N₄O₄S₂ (504.51): calcd. C 35.71, H 5.19, N 11.11%; found C 35.68, H 5.20, N 11.19%.

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