

Self-Plasticization of PVC via click reaction of a mono-octyl phthalate derivative

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Modified PVC (M-PVC) material with suppressed migration and low glass transition temperature was prepared via click reaction of a mono-octyl phthalate derivative. Chemical structure and composition of M-PVC were characterized by FT-IR, ¹H NMR and element analysis. Thermal stability, glass transition temperature and migration stability of M-PVC were studied with TGA, DSC and migration tests, respectively. The study showed that M-PVC exhibited poor thermal stability, and low glass transition temperature of 66.0°C. No migration was found in distilled water, 10% (v/v) ethanol, 30% (w/v) acetic acid and petroleum ether. The PVC material is expected to preparing PVC products in the areas with high migration resistance requirement.

Keywords: poly(vinyl chloride), plasticization, migration, TGA.

INTRODUCTION

Plasticizer is an important plastic additive, which has been used to improve the processing property, flexibility and tensile property of plastic, resin and elastomer. As the commonly used plasticizer, dioctyl phthalate (DOP) has been widely used in child toys, food packaging materials, blood transfusion tube, wire and cable materials due to low price and high plasticizing effect^{1–4}. However, the leaching of DOP from PVC materials cannot be avoided with the extent of time, which will change the properties of PVC products and decrease their service life. In addition, it will be toxic effect on human body once DOP enters human body via mouth, respiratory tract, intravenous infusion or skin absorption^{5–7}. DOP has been prohibited from being used in children toys, food packing materials and medical apparatus and instruments in the United States, Japan, Korean and European Union^{8, 9}. In China, the production of plasticizer has reached 3 million tons a year, 80% of these plasticizers is phthalates¹⁰. In order to avoid plasticizer migration, many new types of plasticizers has been synthesized and studied such as epoxidized soybean oil¹¹, palm oil-based polyester plasticizer¹², epoxidized cardanol diethyl phosphate¹³, glucose esters¹⁴, citric acid ester¹⁵, phosphaphenanthrene groups-containing soybean-oil-based plasticizer¹⁶, soybean oil based polyol ester plasticizers¹⁷ and so on. However, all of these plasticizers are external plasticizer and easily leach from poly(vinyl chloride)(PVC) materials with increasing of time. The internal plasticizer is a part of polymer matrix and covalently bond to the chemical structure, which can resolve the leaching problem. Recently, Braslau et al. and Yang et al. reported the strategy for plasticization of PVC via click reaction. The obtained PVC materials presented lower transition temperature comparable with that of the conventional plasticized PVC^{18–20}. In addition, highly self-plasticized PVC via chemical reaction of hyperbranched polyglycerol was also reported by Lee et al.²¹ Navarro et al.²² developed several synthetic strategies to substitute chlorine with TCTA-based sodium thiolates with different aliphatic

chains. In the study, a mono-octyl phthalate derivative was synthesized, which was covalently bonded to the chemical structure of azide-functionalized PVC as an internal plasticizer. Chemical structure of the modified PVC material (M-PVC) was characterized by FTIR and ¹H NMR. The plasticization effect was studied with DSC. The migration resistance of phthalates plasticizer in distilled water, 10% (v/v) ethanol, 30% (w/v) acetic acid and petroleum ether was studied.

EXPERIMENTAL

Material

Phthalic anhydride, octanol, chloroform, dioctyl phthalate (DOP), propargyl bromide solution, potassium carbonate, sodium azide, *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF), acetone, cuprous bromide, 5,5-dimethyl-2,2-dipyridyl were kindly provided by Nanjing Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. All of the chemical reagents are Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) was supplied by Hanwha (KM-31, South Korea).

Synthesis of mono-octyl phthalate was according on the reference²³

¹H NMR(300MHz, CDCl₃): 10.39(s) -COOH; 7.80(s) -CH=CH-COOH; 7.60(s) -CH=CH-; 7.40(s) -CH=CH-COOC₈H₁₇; 4.13(s) (O=C)-CH₂-; 3.55(s) -OH ; 1.67(s) -CH-; 1.23(s) -(CH₂)_n- ; 0.84(s)-CH₃.

FT-IR (KBr): 2958 (=C-H); 2928(-CH₂-); 2859(-CH₃); 1724(-(O=C)-OH); 1698(C=O); 1580(C=C).

Mono-octyl phthalate derivative was synthesized according to the following steps.

Mono-octyl phthalate (13.9 g, 50 mmol), propargyl bromide solution(6.5 g, 55 mmol), and potassium carbonate (7.6 g, 55 mmol) was mixed in 100 mL of acetone and stirred at 65°C for 12h. The solution was washed with distilled water. Then the mono-octyl phthalate derivative was gotten after purring by evaporating under vacuum.

¹H NMR(300MHz, CDCl₃): 7.56(s) -CH=CH=C-O; 7.34(s) -CH=CH-; 4.80(s) (O=C)-(CH₂)_n-; 4.10(s)

(O=C)-CH₂-C≡CH; 2.55(s) -C≡CH; 1.58(s) -CH-; 1.19(s) -(CH₂)_n-; 0.75(s)-CH₃.

FT-IR (KBr): 3272 (≡C-H); 2958 (=C-H); 2929(-CH₂-); 2860(-CH₃); 2321 (-C≡CH); 1722(C=O); 1580(C=C).

Synthesis of PVC-N₃ was according to the reference²¹

PVC-N₃ was prepared by dissolving 2.00 g of PVC and 2.00 g of NaN₃ in 100 mL of DMF. The solvent was allowed to stir at 30°C for 24 h and precipitated into water/methanol mixture (1/1 by volume), and dried in a vacuum to obtain the PVC-N₃.

¹H NMR(300MHz, CDCl₃):δ 4.20–4.50 (br m, 1H Cl-C-H), 2.40–2.70(br m, 2H CH₂).

FT-IR (KBr):2908(aliphatic C-H stretch), 2108 (N=N=N stretch), 1426 (C-H aliphatic bending), 1252 (C-C aliphaticbending), 609(C-Cl stretch) cm⁻¹.

Elemental analysis: 35.13% C, 8.21% H, 18.47% N, and 38.19% Cl.

Preparation of modified PVC material

Modified PVC materials (M-PVC) was prepared by dissolving 2.00 g of PVC-N₃, 1.20 g of propargyl ether monoethyl phthalate derivative, 0.18 g of cuprous bromide, 0.44 g of 5,5-dimethyl-2,2-dipyridyl in 50 mL of DMF in a three-neck flask, which was installed with a mechanical stirrer, nitrogen pipe and thermometer. The reaction was kept at 30°C and stirred for 24 h. Then the mixture was precipitated into water/methanol mixture (1/1 by volume) after filtering to remove the copper salts, and dried in a vacuum to get the modified PVC materials. Figure 1 showed the synthesis of M-PVC.

Characterization

FT-IR spectra of PVC, PVC-N₃ and M-PVC were detected on a Nicolet iS10 FTIR measurement (Nicolet Instrument Crop., USA). The spectra were acquired in the range of 4000 cm⁻¹ to 500 cm⁻¹ at a resolution of 4 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR measurements were conducted on an AV-300 NMR spectrometer (Bruker Instrument Crop., Germany) at a frequency of 400 MHz. CDCl₃ was used as solvent and tetrametylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard.

Elemental analysis was conducted on an elemental PE-2400 analyzer (PERKINELMER Instrument Crop., USA).

Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was investigated using a TG209F1 TGA thermal analysis instrument (Netzsch Instrument Crop., Germany) in N₂ atmosphere

(50 mL/min) at a heating rate of 10°C/min. 5 mg of samples were put into platinum pans and scanned from 40°C to 500°C.

Glass transition temperature (T_g) of PVC materials was characterized using a NETZSCH DSC 200 PC analyzer. The temperature was heated up from -20°C to 120°C and quenched. The DSC data was collected from the first cycle of heating to wipe out the previous thermal history of the sample before the actual measurement.

Migration of plasticizer was tested in according to ASTM D1239-98. The tested temperature was at 25°C. The relative humidity was 50%. The PVC materials after weighting were placed in distilled water, 10% (v/v) ethanol, 30% (w/v) acetic acid and petroleum ether, respectively. After 24 h, the solvent extracted PVC products were dried and reweighed. The extraction loss was calculated according to the Equation 1. Equation 1: Degree of migration = [(W₁-W₂)/W₁] × 100, where W₁ = initial weight of test specimen, and W₂ = final weight of test PVC specimen.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chemical composition and structure of M-PVC were characterized by elemental analysis, FT-IR and ¹H NMR. The elemental analysis presented that chemical composition of M-PVC was 43.21% C, 10.69% H, 13.6% N, 31.7% Cl and 1.8% O. As seen from Figure 2(1), the characteristic absorption peak of -N₃ band for azide-functionalized PVC appeared at 2108 cm⁻¹, which presented weaker than that of PVC-N₃. The absorption peak at 1728 cm⁻¹ appeared stronger corresponding to ester band of monoethyl phthalate derivative, the results illustrated that monoethyl phthalate derivative reacted with PVC-N₃. To further investigate the chemical structure of M-PVC, ¹H NMR spectra of M-PVC was also detected. As shown in Figure 2(2), the protons of benzene ring were found at δ 7.55ppm and δ7.71ppm(peak e). The strong peak at δ 7.28 ppm attributed the CDCl₃ solvent. The peaks at around δ 4.22–4.61 ppm (peak a+b) attributed to protons of N-CH-(CH₂-) and Cl-CH-(CH₂). The peaks at δ 2.07 and δ 2.03ppm (peak c+d) attributed to the protons of Cl-CH-(CH₂). The peaks at δ 0.92 (peak f), 1.26 (peak g) and 1.65 ppm (peak h) were corresponded the protons of methyl and methylene, respectively. All of these data indicated that the monoethyl phthalate derivative was reacted with PVC-N₃.

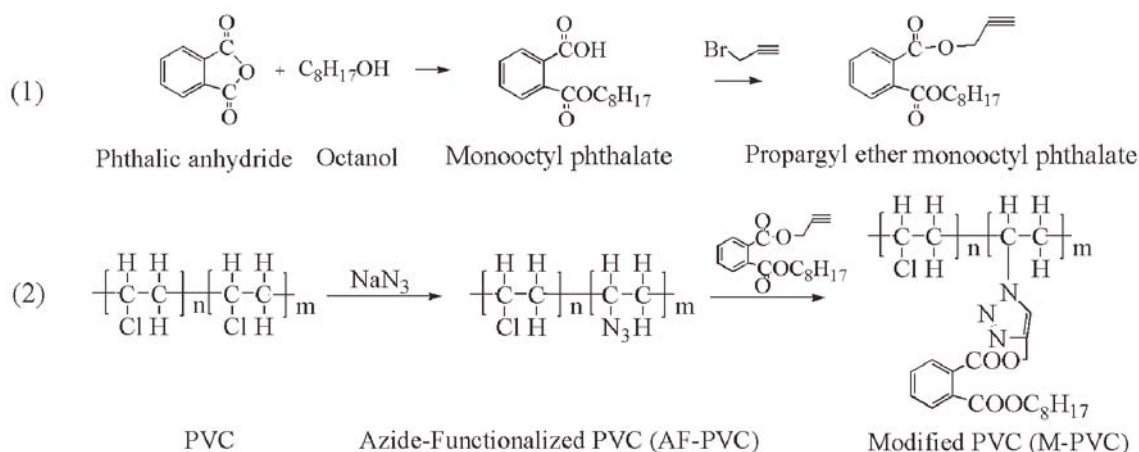


Figure 1. Preparation of M-PVC

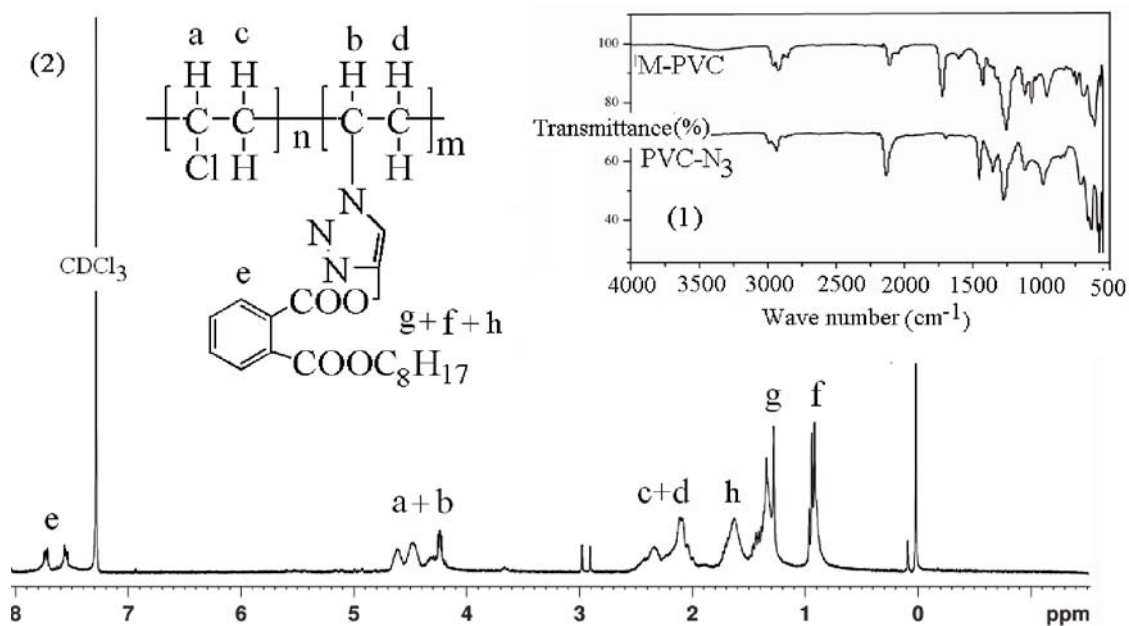


Figure 2. (1) FT-IR spectra of M-PVC and PVC-N3; (2) ^1H NMR spectrum of M-PVC

TGA and DSC were used to investigate the thermal properties of PVC and M-PVC. As shown in Figure 3 (A), PVC materials began to degrade at above 170°C . Apparently, the thermal stability of PVC was better than that of M-PVC, because thermal degradation process of PVC lagged behind M-PVC during the whole thermal degradation process. The whole thermal degradation of synthesized PVC material presented two stages.

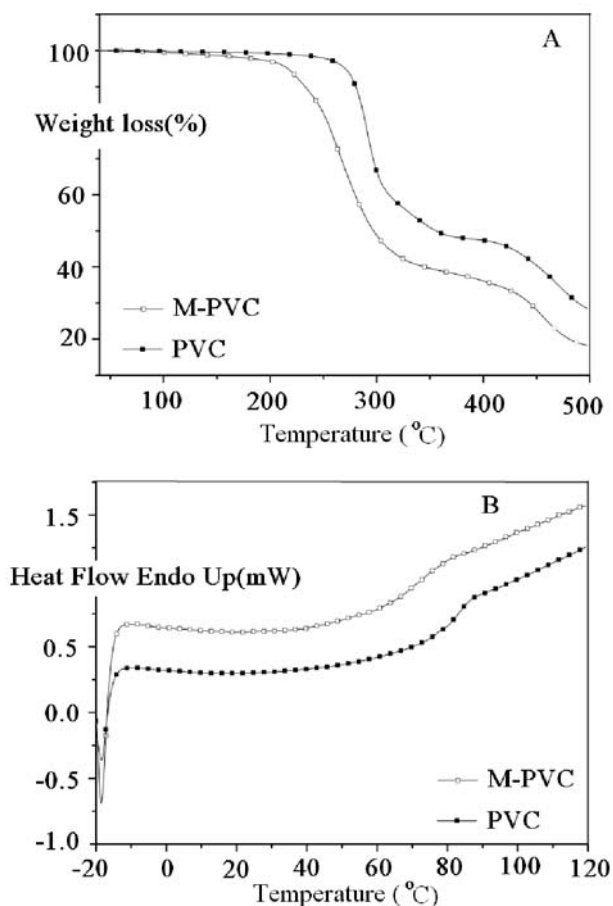


Figure 3. (A) TGA curves of PVC and M-PVC; (B) DSC curves of PVC and M-PVC

Dehydrochlorination of PVC occurred at $250\text{--}350^\circ\text{C}$. Cyclization of conjugated polyene sequences forming aromatic compounds occurred in the temperature range of $350\text{--}500^\circ\text{C}$. The covalent bonding of azide group on PVC chains made the material easily degradable. DSC curves of PVC and M-PVC were shown in Figure 3 (B), a change in heat capacity approximately at 78.1°C was shown in DSC curves of PVC, which was attributed to the Tg of PVC. A slight decrease of Tg of 66.0°C was observed in the DSC curves of M-PVC. The results showed that the internal plasticizer increased the distance between PVC chains and decreased intermolecular force of M-PVC chains, which further increased segment mobility of M-PVC chains, and decreased the Tg of PVC efficiently. Tg of the modified PVC was lower than that of the unmodified PVC indicated that the plasticization effect was successful. The migration degree of plasticizer was presented in our previous study¹⁰. The migration degree of DOP migrated out from the PVC blends (40% wt of DOP) in was 1.4%, 1.55%, 3.45%, 2.01 % in distilled water, 10% (v/v) ethanol, 30 (w/v) acetic acid and petroleum ether, respectively⁵, but no migration was observed for M-PVC. The results indicated that the use of internal plasticizer avoided migration, which can maintain properties of the PVC products for long stable, and decrease the possible threat of toxic to human body. The M-PVC material can be used in the area with high requirement in migration stability.

CONCLUSIONS

In the study, a kind of PVC material with suppressed migration was prepared via click reaction of a mono-*o*-cyl phthalate derivative. FT-IR, ^1H NMR and element analysis were used to investigate the chemical structure and composition of M-PVC. TGA and DSC showed that M-PVC exhibited poor thermal stability, and a low glass transition temperature (Tg) of 66.0°C . Migration tests showed that no migration was found in distilled water, 10% (v/v) ethanol, 30% (w/v) acetic acid and petroleum ether. The PVC material can be used prepared

PVC products in areas with high migration resistance requirement. The method provided general method for preparing PVC materials without migration.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported by the Fundamental Research Funds from Jiangsu Province Biomass and Materials Laboratory (JSBEM-S-2017010); the President of the Chinese Academy of Forestry Foundation (CAFYB-B2014QB021).

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