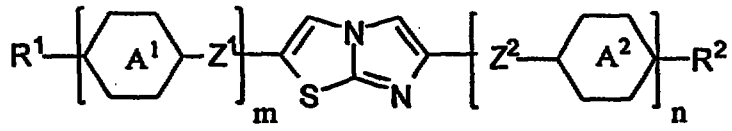
ABSTRACT

IMIDAZOTHIAZOLES

Compounds of the general formula



I

have a pronounced tendency to form liquid crystalline S (smectic) phases. Thus, optically inactive compounds of the formula I also have a tilted smectic phase, in particular an S_C phase, in addition to a nematic phase. In contrast, many optically active compounds of the formula I additionally have, inter alia, a tilted smectic chiral phase, in particular a chiral S_C phase, in addition to a cholesteric phase. The stated compounds are therefore particularly suitable as components and as dopants, respectively, for the preparation of a very wide range of liquid crystalline mixtures. The class of compounds comprising compounds of the general formula I offers a broad range of novel components and mixtures for optimization and modification of liquid crystalline mixtures.