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(54) Title: LIQUID CRYSTALLINE COMPOUNDS

(57) Abstract

A compound is of formula (I); wherein: MG¹ and MG³ each independently represent an optionally-substituted aliphatic group with 1 to 80 C-atoms, in which one or more C-atoms may be replaced by a heteroatom, in such a way that oxygen atoms are not linked to one another; or an optionally-substituted aromatic or non-aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system, with 1 to 80 C-atoms; and MG² represents a group comprising at least two and up to four optionally-substituted aromatic or non-aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring systems, with 1 to 80 C-atoms, wherein, when MG² represents a group comprising four optionally-substituted ring systems, at least three of the ring systems are aligned in between B¹ and B². The groups MG¹, MG² and MG³ in these new "staircase molecules" may be selected so that each has one or more of the properties which are required in an LCP material prepared by polymerising the compound.

