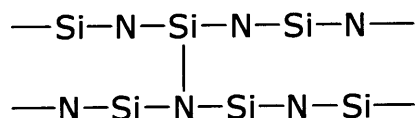


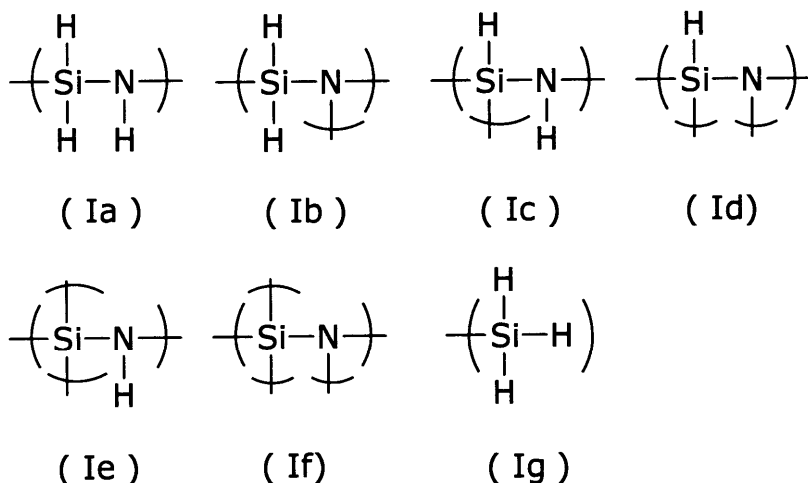
CLAIMS

1. A perhydropolysilazane containing a structure of the following formula:



having a weight-average molecular weight of 5,000 to 17,000, characterized in that when $^1\text{H-NMR}$ of a 17% by weight solution of said perhydropolysilazane dissolved in xylol is measured, the ratio of the amount of $\text{SiH}_{1,2}$ based on the amount of the aromatic ring hydrogen content of the xylol is 0.235 or less and the ratio of the amount of NH based on the amount of the aromatic ring hydrogen content of the xylol is 0.055 or less.

2. The perhydropolysilazane according to claim 1, wherein the perhydropolysilazane comprises a repeating unit of the general formulae (Ia) to (If) and a terminal group of the formula (Ig).



3. The perhydropolysilazane according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the weight-average molecular weight is 5,700 to 15,000.

4. A curing composition comprising the perhydropolysilazane according to any one of claims 1 to 3 and a solvent.

5. The curing composition according to claim 4, wherein said solvent is selected from a group consisting of (a) an aromatic compound, (b) a saturated hydrocarbon compound, (c) an unsaturated hydrocarbon compound, (d) an ether, (e) an ester, and (f) a ketone.

6. The curing composition according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the composition comprises 0.1 to 70 mass% of the perhydropolysilazane based on the total amount of the composition.

7. A method for forming a siliceous film, comprising coating the curing composition according to any one of claims 4 to 6 on a substrate and heating.

8. The method for forming a siliceous film according to claim 7, wherein said heating is performed under a water vapor atmosphere.