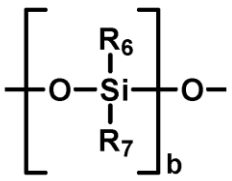
## CLAIMS

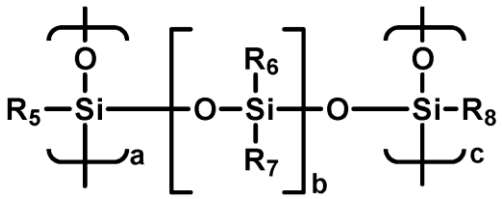
1. An aerogel having a ladder type structure provided with a strut and a bridge, the bridge represented by the following general formula (2):



（２）

wherein in the formula (2), $R_6$ and $R_7$ each independently represents an alkyl group or an aryl group and “b” represents an integer of from 1 to 50.

2. The aerogel according to claim 1, having a structure represented by the following general formula (3):



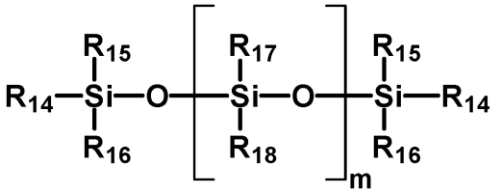
（３）

wherein in the formula (3), $R_5$, $R_6$, $R_7$, and $R_8$ each independently represents an alkyl group or an aryl group; “a” and “c” each independently represents an integer of from 1 to 3,000; and “b” represents an integer of from 1 to 50.

3. An aerogel from drying a wet gel, the wet gel being formed from a sol comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of a polysiloxane compound having a reactive group within a molecule thereof and a hydrolyzed product of said polysiloxane compound, wherein

the reactive group is an alkoxy group, optionally having a carbon number of from 1 to 6;

and the polysiloxane compound is represented by the following general formula (5):



( 5 )

wherein in the formula (5), $R_{14}$ represents an alkyl group or an alkoxy group; $R_{15}$ and $R_{16}$ each independently represents an alkoxy group; $R_{17}$ and $R_{18}$ each independently represents an alkyl group or an aryl group; and "m" represents an integer of from 1 to 50.

4. The aerogel according to claim 3, wherein the sol further comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a silicone compound having a hydrolyzable functional group within a molecule thereof and a hydrolyzed product of said silicone compound.

5. The aerogel according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the drying is carried out at a temperature of less than a critical temperature of a solvent to be used in the drying and under atmospheric pressure.

6. The aerogel according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the drying is supercritical drying.