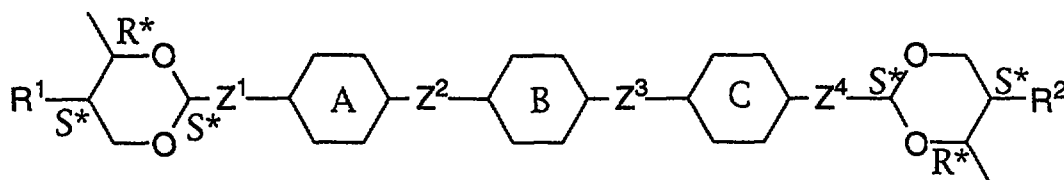


Abstract

5 Compounds of the general formula



wherein

10

R¹ and R²

each independently signify alkyl or alkenyl in which optionally one methylene group or two non-adjacent methylene groups is/are replaced by -O-, -COO- and/or -OOC- and/or one or more hydrogen atoms is/are replaced by fluorine, chlorine or cyano; one of rings

15

A, B and C

signifies a 1,4-phenylene optionally substituted with 1 or 2 fluorine atoms, pyridine-2,5-diyl or pyrimidine-2,5-diyl and the other two rings each independently signify 1,4-phenylene optionally substituted with 1 or 2 fluorine atoms or trans-1,4-cyclohexylene;

20

Z¹ and Z⁴

each independently signify a single bond, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂O-, -OCH₂-, -C≡C-, -(CH₂)₄-, -(CH₂)₃O-, -O(CH₂)₃-, -CH=CH-CH₂O-, -OCH₂-CH=CH-, -CH=CH-(CH₂)₂- or -(CH₂)₂CH=CH-, with the proviso that the oxygen atom is not linked directly with the chiral dioxane ring;

30

Z² and Z³

each independently signify a single bond, -CH₂-CH₂-, -O-CH₂-, -CH₂-O-, -COO-, -OOC-, -C≡C-, -(CH₂)₄-, -O(CH₂)₃-,



R* and S*

-(CH₂)₃O-, -CH=CH-CH₂O-, -OCH₂-CH=CH-,
-(CH₂)₂-CH=CH- or -CH=CH-(CH₂)₂-; and
signify the relative configurations of the
chiral carbon atoms;

- 5 as well as liquid crystalline mixtures which contain such compounds and the use of such compounds and mixtures for optical and electro-optical purposes.