

THIOGLYCEROL DERIVATIVES AND THEIR USE IN POLYSULFIDE
COMPOSITIONS FOR OPTICAL MATERIAL

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to thioglycerol derivatives and their preparation, the derivatives having utility in optical materials such as lenses.

Plastic lenses for use in eyeglasses and cameras have become widespread in view of their lightweight, durability, dyeability and workability as compared to conventional glass lenses. Resin compositions suitable for the manufacture of optical lenses must possess certain characteristics, including a high refractive index, high surface accuracy, low dispersion properties and good heat resistance, impact resistance and scratch resistance. Diethylene glycol bis(allylcarbonate (DAC) and polycarbonates have conventionally been used for plastic lenses. Lenses made of DAC, however, have lower refractive indices than lenses made of glass of a corresponding overall thickness, and therefore do not perform as well in this regard.

U.S. Patent Nos. 4,775,733 and 5,191,055 disclose polyurethane lenses made of a polymer between a xylylene diisocyanate compound and a polythiol compound having a higher refractive index than lenses made from DAC. However, such lenses generally suffer from poor heat resistance, hindering the ability to use high temperatures during heat treatment processing steps.

It therefore would be desirable to develop compositions for use in making optical materials that do not suffer from the various drawbacks mentioned above, and that have good machinability and processability.

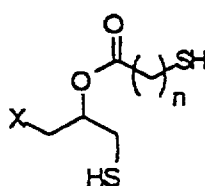
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The problems of the prior art have been overcome by the present invention, which provides novel thioglycerol derivatives, processes for their manufacture, and optical materials made from such compounds. The thioglycerol derivatives have high concentrations of sulfur relative to

compounds conventionally used for optical materials, and thus exhibit high refractive indices without sacrificing important properties such as processability.

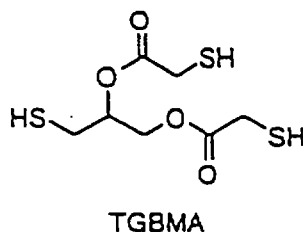
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Thioglycerol ($\text{HSCH}_2\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$) and 1,3-dimercapto-2-propanol are the bases of the compounds of the present invention. They can be conveniently esterified with common mercaptoacids of the formula $\text{HS}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOH}$ wherein n is from 1 to 5, including thioglycolic acid, 3-mercaptopropionic acid, etc., to form compounds having the following generic formula:

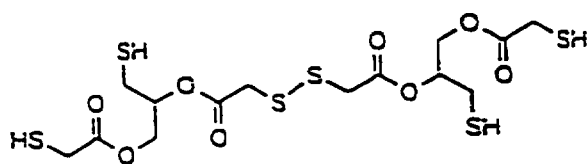
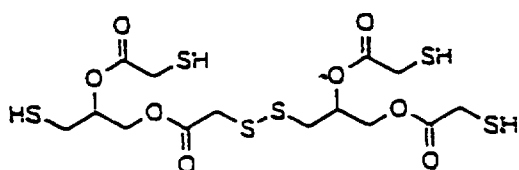
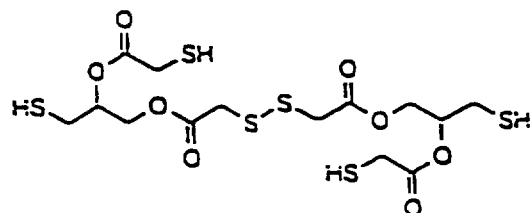
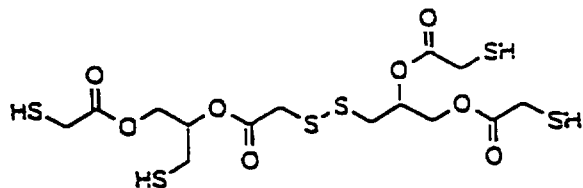
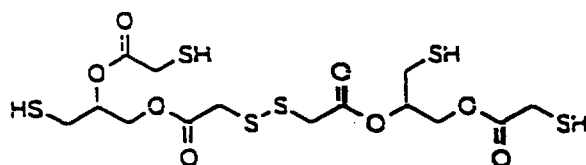
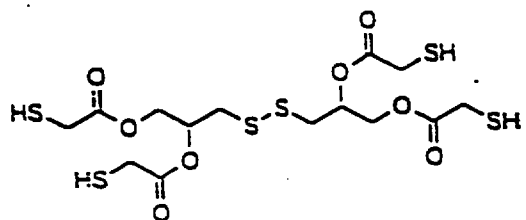


wherein X is $-\text{SH}$ or $-\text{O}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{SH}$, and n is from 1 to 5.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that as the chain length of the mercapto acid increases (i.e., as n increases from 1 to 5 and beyond), the percent sulfur in the composition decreases, thereby decreasing the refractive index of the resulting derivative. Accordingly, esterification with thioglycolic acid is especially preferred, in particular with two equivalents of thioglycolic acid, resulting in thioglycerol bismercaptoacetate (TGBMA) having the following formula:

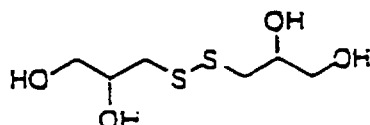


In addition, the resulting TGBMA can be further oxidized, such as with peroxide or other suitable oxidizing agents known to those skilled in the art, to give varying degrees of disulfide. Examples of such disulfides are shown below:

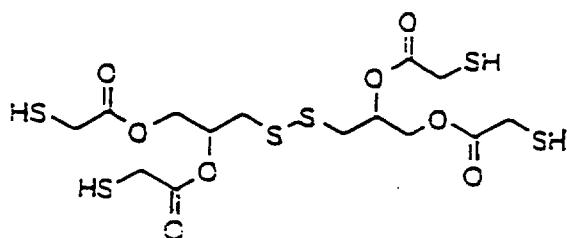


The esterified product can be washed with a suitable base, preferably ammonia or alkali metal hydroxide, such as sodium or potassium hydroxide, to remove any residual mercaptoacid.

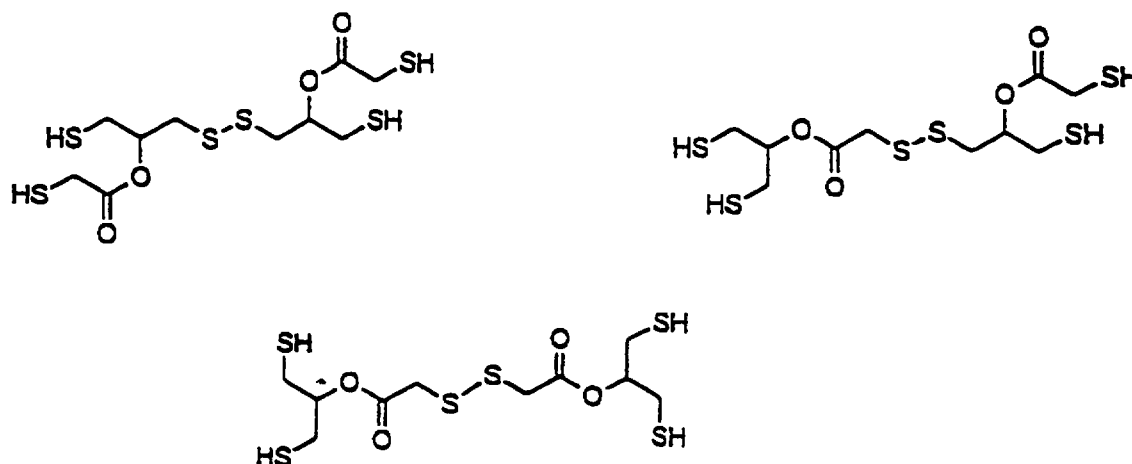
In an alternative embodiment, thioglycerol is oxidized to the corresponding disulfide with a suitable oxidizing agent:



This resulting tetraol can be readily esterified with the aforementioned mercaptoacids to form a highly functionalized mercaptan having a sulfur content slightly higher than thioglycerol bismercaptoacetate:



In a further embodiment of the present invention, 1,3-dimercapto-2-propanol is esterified with thioglycolic acid to produce dimercaptopropanol mercaptoacetate. Disulfides of this mercaptoacetate can be produced by analogous procedures to those above, resulting in the following derivatives:



Optical materials such as lenses can be prepared from the derivatives of the present invention by conventional means. Suitable additives such as surface active agents may be used. The resulting lens may be subjected as necessary to various physical and chemical treatments such as surface polishing, treatment for antistaticity, hard coat treatment, non-reflecting coat treatment, dyeing, treatment for photochromism, etc., all well known to those skilled in the art.

The invention is further illustrated by the following non-limiting examples.

EXAMPLE 1

In a 5 liter, 3 neck roundbottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer, thermocouple and a distillation head with vacuum take off, is placed thioglycerol (1994.60g, 7.78 moles) and thioglycolic acid (2332.96g, 24.82 moles).

Methane sulfonic acid (14.16g, 0.15 mole) is added, vacuum applied (5-10mm Hg) and the reaction heated to 70°C. When the reaction temperature reached about 40°C, water began to distill over. The reaction was heated at 70°C for 4-5 hours and cooled

to room temperature. The reaction is then transferred to a 6 liter Erlenmeyer flask which is equipped with an overhead stirrer.

Aqueous ammonia (4218.00g, 5%, 12.41 moles) was added and the reaction stirred for 30-45 minutes. An exotherm occurs to approximately 35-40°C upon addition of the ammonia. This can be controlled by cooling the reaction to 10-15°C prior to the addition of ammonia. The upper ammonia layer is then removed and the reaction washed with a 3 x 2 liters of water. After washing is completed, the reaction is stripped water free, either via a vacuum distillation or on the rotary evaporator to yield 1994.6g, 69%, of TGBMA as a light yellow oil. The refractive index was 1.5825.

EXAMPLE 2

To a 250ml, three neck flask equipped with a condenser, thermometer, magnetic stirring, and a constant addition funnel was added thioglycerol (42.00g, 0.39 mole), water (32.40g, 1.80 mole) and ferrous sulfate (0.02g, 0.3 mmole). Hydrogen peroxide (42.00g, 0.30 moles) was added slowly, maintaining a temperature of less than 50°C. Care was taken not to add the hydrogen peroxide too rapidly, thereby avoiding the accumulation of excess peroxide.

The reaction mixture was extracted with methyl isobutyl ketone to remove unreacted thioglycerol. The aqueous portion was concentrated to dryness, after testing for unreacted peroxide, resulting in 41.90g of the disulfide product (>99% yield). The refractive index was 1.5670.

EXAMPLE 3

Dithioglycerol tetramercaptoacetate was prepared using the procedure described in Example 1 after adjusting the stoichiometry.

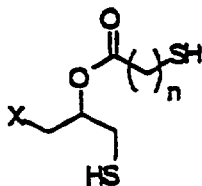
EXAMPLE 4

1,3-Dimercapto-2-propanol (12.8g, 0.1 moles), thioglycolic acid (9.5g, 0.1 moles) and methane sulfonic acid (0.13g, 1.30 mmoles) were combined and heated to 70°C under about 4 mm of vacuum. The reaction mixture was held at this temperature and pressure for 2-3 hours until the water was distilled from the reaction. The reaction completion can be monitored by titration for acid number.

The reaction was washed with a 3.7% aqueous ammonia followed by one or two water washes to remove the excess thioglycolic acid. The final product was stripped to dryness resulting in a 79% yield. The refractive index was 1.6200.

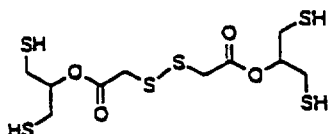
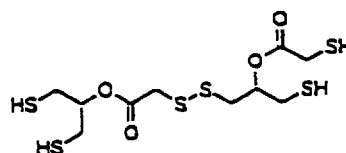
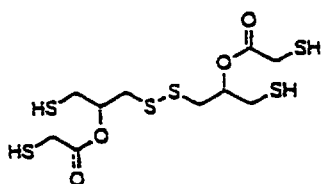
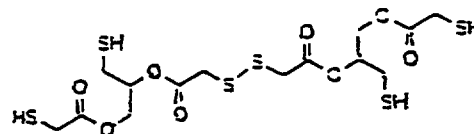
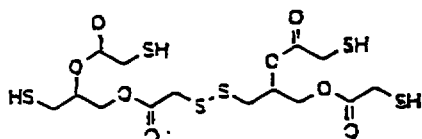
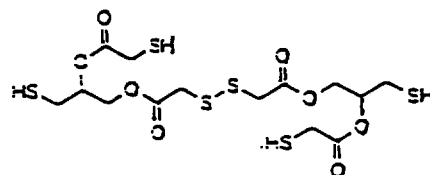
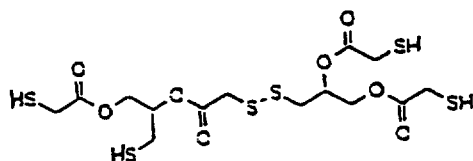
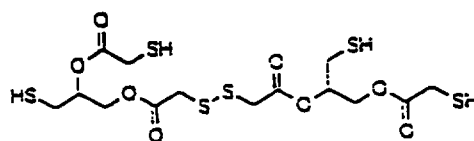
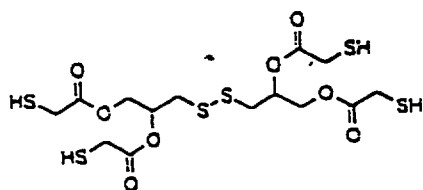
What is claimed is:

1. A thioglycerol derivative having the following formula:



wherein X is -SH or $\text{-C(=O)-(CH}_2\text{)}_n\text{-SH}$, and n is an integer from 1 to 5.

2. A thioglycerol derivative selected from the group consisting of the following compounds:



3. A method of preparing a thioglycerol derivative, comprising reacting thioglycerol with a mercaptoacid having the formula $\text{HS}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOH}$ wherein n is from 1 to 5.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the mercaptoacid is selected from the group consisting of thioglycolic acid and 3-mercaptopropionic acid.

5. The method of claim 3, further comprising washing the resulting derivative with base.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said base is ammonia or alkali metal hydroxide.

7. A method of preparing a thioglycerol derivative, comprising oxidizing thioglycerol, and esterifying the resulting tetraol with a mercaptoacid having the formula $\text{HS}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOH}$ wherein n is from 1 to 5.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the mercaptoacid is selected from the group consisting of thioglycolic acid and 3-mercaptopropionic acid.

9. A method of preparing a thioglycerol derivative, comprising oxidizing 1,3-dimercapto-2-propanol, and esterifying the resulting compound with a mercaptoacid having the formula $\text{HS}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOH}$ wherein n is from 1 to 5.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the mercaptoacid is selected from the group consisting of thioglycolic acid and 3-mercaptopropionic acid.

11. A plastic lens comprising the thioglycerol derivative of claim 1.

12. A plastic lens comprising the thioglycerol derivative of claim 2.



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