

**Halogenated polysilane and thermal process for
producing the same**

The present invention relates to a halogenated polysilane as a pure compound or mixture of compounds each having at least one direct Si-Si bond, whose substituents consist exclusively of halogen or of halogen and hydrogen and in whose composition the atomic ratio substituent:silicon is greater than 1:1.

Such chlorinated polysilanes (PCS) are known, for example, from: DE 10 2005 024 041 A1; DE 10 2006 034 061 A1; WO 2008/031427 A2; WO 81/03168; US 2005/0142046 A1; M. Schmeisser, P. Voss "Über das Siliciumdichlorid $[\text{SiCl}_2]_x$ " [Concerning silicon dichloride $[\text{SiCl}_2]_x$], Z. anorg. allg. Chem. (1964) 334, 50-56; US2007/0078252A1; DE 31 26 240 C2; GB 702,349; R. Schwarz and H. Meckbach "Über ein Siliciumchlorid der Formel $\text{Si}_{10}\text{Cl}_{22}$ " [Concerning a silicon chloride of the formula $\text{Si}_{10}\text{Cl}_{22}$], Z. anorg. allg. Chem. (1937) 232, 241-248. They can be prepared, on the one hand, by means of a purely thermal reaction, such as described, for example, in M. Schmeisser, P. Voss "Über das Siliciumdichlorid $[\text{SiCl}_2]_x$ ", Z. anorg. allg. Chem. (1964) 334, 50-56 (Schmeisser 1964), by heating vaporous halosilanes with a reducing agent (Si, H_2) to relatively high temperatures ($> 700^\circ\text{C}$). The halogenated polysilanes obtained are slightly greenish yellow-colored, glassy and highly polymeric. Furthermore, the literature mixture is strongly contaminated with AlCl_3 due to the preparation.

In R. Schwarz and H. Meckbach "Über ein Siliciumchlorid der Formel $\text{Si}_{10}\text{Cl}_{22}$ ", Z. anorg. allg. Chem. (1937) 232, 241-248, a silicon chloride having the composition $\text{Si}_{10}\text{Cl}_{22}$ is further presented, which was obtained by reaction of SiCl_4 with silicon carbide at 1050°C . The authors describe it as a highly viscous oil with a molar mass of 1060 g/mol.

Similar results are described by P. W. Schenk and
Helmuth Bloching "Darstellung und Eigenschaften des
Siliciumdichlorids (SiCl_2)_x [Preparation and properties
5 of silicon dichloride (SiCl_2)_x] ", Z. anorg. allg. Chem.
(1964) 334, 57-65, who obtain products with molar
masses of 1250 ($\text{Si}_{12}\text{Cl}_{24}$) to 1580 ($\text{Si}_{16}\text{Cl}_{32}$) g/mol as
colorless to yellow, viscous to resin-like, cyclic
substances.

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In R. Schwarz and U. Gregor "Über ein Siliciumchlorid
der Formel SiCl " [Concerning a silicon chloride of the
formula SiCl], Z. anorg. allg. Chem. (1939) 241, 395-
415 a PCS of the composition SiCl is reported. This is
15 completely insoluble.

In J. R. Koe, D. R. Powell, J. J. Buffy, S. Hayase, R.
West, Angew. Chem. 1998, 110, 1514-1515, a PCS (cream-
white solid) is described, which is formed by ring-
20 opening polymerization of Si_4Cl_8 and is insoluble in all
customary solvents.

In Harald Schäfer and Julius Nickl "Über das Reaktions-
gleichgewicht $\text{Si} + \text{SiCl}_4 = 2\text{SiCl}_2$ und die thermo-
25 chemischen Eigenschaften des gasförmigen Silicium(II)-
chlorids" [Concerning the reaction equilibrium $\text{Si} +$
 $\text{SiCl}_4 = 2\text{SiCl}_2$ and the thermochemical properties of
gaseous silicon (II) chloride], Z. anorg. allg. Chem.
(1953) 274, 250-264 and in R. Teichmann and E. Wolf
30 "Experimentelle Untersuchung des Reaktions-
gleichgewichtes $\text{SiCl}_4(\text{g}) + \text{Si}(\text{f}) = 2\text{SiCl}_2(\text{g})$ nach der
Strömungsmethode", [Experimental investigation of the
reaction equilibrium $\text{SiCl}_4(\text{g}) + \text{Si}(\text{f}) = 2\text{SiCl}_2(\text{g})$
according to the flow method], Z. anorg. allg. Chem.
35 (1966) 347, 145-155, thermodynamic investigations on
the reaction of SiCl_4 with Si are carried out. PCS is
not isolated or described here.

In GB 702,349, the reaction of chlorine gas with calcium silicide in a fluidized bed at at most 250°C to give lower perchlorooligosilanes is described. The mixtures formed here are unbranched on account of the low temperature, contain no cyclic PCS and consist of about 80% Si_2Cl_6 and Si_3Cl_8 in addition to 11% $\text{Si}_4\text{Cl}_{10}$ and small amounts of $\text{Si}_5\text{Cl}_{12}$ and $\text{Si}_6\text{Cl}_{14}$. The mixtures of these compounds are colorless liquids, contain no cycles and are contaminated by CaCl_2 due to the process.

DE 31 26 240 C2 describes the wet-chemical preparation of PCS from Si_2Cl_6 by reaction with a catalyst. The mixtures obtained still contain the catalyst and are therefore washed with organic solvents, whereby traces of the reactants, the solvents and the catalyst remain. Moreover, these PCSs contain no cyclic compounds.

Further wet-chemical processes are presented in US2007/0078252A1:

1. Halogenated aryloligosilanes to be reduced with sodium and subsequently to be cleaved with HCl/AlCl_3 aromatics.
2. Transition metal-catalyzed dehydrogenating polymerization of arylated H-silanes and subsequent dearylation with HCl/AlCl_3 .
3. Anionically catalyzed ring-opening polymerization (ROP) of $(\text{SiCl}_2)_5$ with TBAF (Bu_4NF).
4. ROP of $(\text{SiAr}_2)_5$ with TBAF or Ph_3SiK and subsequent dearylation with HCl/AlCl_3 .

In all these methods, PCSs contaminated with solvent/catalyst are in turn obtained, of which only the distillable fractions can be effectively purified.

No product mixture of high purity can therefore be obtained from the above reactions.

It is further known to prepare such halogenated polysilanes via a plasma-chemical process. For example, DE 10 2005 024 041 A1 relates to a process for the preparation of silicon from halosilanes, in which the halosilane is reacted in a first step with generation of a plasma discharge to give a halogenated polysilane, which is subsequently decomposed in a second step with heating to give silicon. This known process is carried out at high energy densities ($> 10 \text{ Wcm}^{-3}$) with respect to plasma generation, the end product being a not very compact waxy-white to yellow-brownish or brown solid. Spectroscopic investigations have shown that the final product obtained has a relatively large degree of cross-linking. The high energy densities used lead to products of high molar masses, wherefrom insolubility and low fusibility result. Moreover, this PCS also has a significant hydrogen content.

Furthermore, a high-pressure plasma process for the synthesis of HSiCl_3 is described in WO 81/03168, in which PCSs are obtained as minor by-products. Since these PCSs are obtained under hydrogenating conditions (HSiCl_3 synthesis!), they have a significant hydrogen content.

In US 2005/0142046 A1, a PCS preparation by silent electric discharge in SiCl_4 at normal pressure is described. In this process, only short-chain oligosilanes result, as the author shows by example of the selective reaction of SiH_4 to give Si_2H_6 and Si_3H_8 by connecting several reactors one after the other.

The behavior is analogous in DE 10 2006 034 061 A1, where a similar reaction is described in which gaseous

and liquid PCSs are obtained with Si_2Cl_6 as the main constituent (p. 3, [0016]). Although the authors describe that the molar masses of the PCSs can be increased by use of several reactors connected one after the other, only material can be obtained here that can be brought into the gas phase undecomposed. The authors also express this situation in the claims, in which they provide for distillations for all PCS mixtures obtained. Furthermore, the PCSs mentioned in DE 10 2006 034 061 A1 are hydrogen-containing.

Besides chlorinated polysilanes, further halogenated polysilanes Si_xH_y ($X = \text{F}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$) are also known in the prior art.

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According to F. Höfler, R. Jannach, Monatshefte für Chemie 107 (1976) 731-735, Si_3F_8 can be prepared from $\text{Si}_3(\text{OMe})_8$ with BF_3 in a closed tube at -50 to -60°C (8 h) in yields of 55-60%. The methoxyisotetrasilane is completely degraded to shorter perfluorosilanes under these conditions.

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E. Hengge, G. Olbrich, Monatshefte für Chemie 101 (1970) 1068-1073 describes the preparation of a 2-dimensionally built polymer $(\text{SiF})_x$. The 2-dimensionally constructed polymers $(\text{SiCl})_x$ and $(\text{SiBr})_x$ are obtained from CaSi_2 by reaction with ICl or IBr . A halogen exchange is then completed with SbF_3 . However, partial degradation of the Si layer structure occurs here. The resulting product contains the amount of CaCl_2 specified stoichiometrically from CaSi , which cannot be washed out.

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The preparation of polyfluorosilane $(\text{SiF}_2)_x$ is described, for example, in M. Schmeisser, Angewandte Chemie 66 (1954) 713-714. SiBr_2F_2 reacts with magnesium in ether at room temperature to give a yellow, highly

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polymeric $(\text{SiF}_2)_x$. Compounds such as $\text{Si}_{10}\text{Cl}_{22}$, $(\text{SiBr})_x$ and $\text{Si}_{10}\text{Br}_{16}$ can be transhalogenated with ZnF_2 to give the corresponding fluorides.

- 5 R. L. Jenkins, A. J. Vanderwielen, S. P. Ruis, S. R. Gird, M. A. Ring, Inorganic Chemistry 12 (1973) 2968-2972 report that Si_2F_6 decomposes at 405°C to give SiF_4 and SiF_2 . By condensation of this intermediate, $(\text{SiF}_2)_x$ can be obtained.

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The standard method for the production of $(\text{SiF}_2)_x$ is illustrated, for example, in P. L. Timms, R. A. Kent, T. C. Ehlert, J. L. Margrave, Journal of the American Chemical Society 87 (1965) 2824-2828. Here, $(\text{SiF}_2)_x$ is
 15 produced by passing SiF_4 over silicon at 1150°C and 0.1-0.2 torr and freezing out the resulting SiF_2 at -196°C with polymerization during the subsequent thawing. The colorless to slightly yellow plastic polymer melts on warming to $200 - 350^\circ\text{C}$ in vacuo and releases
 20 perfluorinated silanes from SiF_4 to at least $\text{Si}_{14}\text{F}_{30}$. A silicon-rich polymer $(\text{SiF})_x$ remains, which decomposes vigorously at $400 \pm 10^\circ\text{C}$ to give SiF_4 and Si. The lower perfluoropolysilanes are colorless liquids or crystalline solids that are isolable by fractional
 25 condensation in purities of $> 95\%$. Traces of secondary or tertiary amines catalyze the polymerization of the perfluorooligosilanes. US 2,840,588 discloses that SiF_2 is formed at < 50 torr and $> 1100^\circ\text{C}$ from SiF_4 and Si, SiC, silicon alloys or metal silicides. For the
 30 isolation of $(\text{SiF}_2)_x$, the intermediate must be cooled rapidly to $< 0^\circ\text{C}$. G. P. Adams, K. G. Sharp, P. W. Wilson, J. L. Margrave, Journal of Chemical Thermodynamics 2 (1970) 439-443 describe that $(\text{SiF}_2)_x$ is prepared from SiF_4 and Si at 1250°C . In a similar
 35 manner, according to US 4070444 A $(\text{SiF}_2)_x$ is prepared by reaction of a perfluorosilane with metallurgical silicon and subsequent deposition of the SiF_2 .

Thermolysis of the polymer releases elemental silicon of higher purity than the starting material. The process disclosed in US 4138509 A likewise serves for purification. Silicon that contains aluminum as an impurity is reacted with SiF_4 in the presence of SiO_2 at temperatures $> 1100^\circ\text{C}$ in order to produce SiF_2 . A condensation of the product gas in two stages leads to the selective deposition of the gaseous impurities in a first fraction, while the second fraction consists of largely pure $(\text{SiF}_2)_x$. Thermal decomposition of the polymer at $100 - 300^\circ\text{C}$ produces gaseous and liquid perfluorinated silanes, which are then decomposed to give silicon at $400 - 950^\circ\text{C}$.

FI 82232 B discloses a reaction at even higher temperature. SiF_4 reacts with Si in an Ar plasma flame to give SiF_2 (0.8:1 mol, 70% SiF_2 content).

Short-chain perbrominated polysilanes are formed according to A. Besson, L. Fournier, Comptes rendus 151 (1911) 1055-1057. An electrical discharge in gaseous HSiBr_3 produces SiBr_4 , Si_2Br_6 , Si_3Br_8 and $\text{Si}_4\text{Br}_{10}$.

K. Hassler, E. Hengge, D. Kovar, Journal of molecular structure 66 (1980) 25-30 prepare cyclo- Si_4Br_8 by reaction of $(\text{SiPh}_2)_4$ with HBr under AlBr_3 catalysis.

In H. Stüger, P. Lassacher, E. Hengge, Zeitschrift für allgemeine und anorganische Chemie 621 (1995) 1517-1522, $\text{Si}_5\text{Br}_9\text{H}$ is reacted by boiling with $\text{Hg}(\text{tBu}_2)$ in heptane to give the corresponding bis-cyclopentasilane $\text{Si}_{10}\text{Br}_{18}$. Alternatively, a ring linkage of $\text{Si}_5\text{Ph}_9\text{Br}$ with naphthyllithium or K or Na/K in various solvents can take place with subsequent halogenation with HBr/ AlBr_3 .

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Perbrominated polysilanes are described, for example, in M. Schmeisser, M. Schwarzmann, Zeitschrift für

Naturforschung 11b (1956) 278-282. In the reaction of Mg turnings with SiBr_4 in boiling ether two phases are formed, the lower of which consists of magnesium bromide etherate and $(\text{SiBr})_x$, while the upper phase
 5 contains MgBr_2 dissolved in ether and small amounts of lower silicon sub-bromides. $(\text{SiBr})_x$ can be purified by washing with ether. The reaction of SiBr_4 vapor with Si at 1200°C and in vacuo produces brown, brittle $(\text{SiBr}_2)_x$. The hydrolysis-sensitive substance is readily soluble
 10 in benzene and most non-polar solvents. In vacuo, the polymer decomposes from 200°C with elimination of Si_2Br_6 . At 350°C $(\text{SiBr})_x$ remains; further warming to $550\text{--}600^\circ\text{C}$ leads to elemental silicon. It is presumed on the basis of the good solubility that $(\text{SiBr}_2)_x$ consists
 15 of Si rings of restricted size. The molecular weight determination of about 3000 appears unreliable. $(\text{SiBr}_2)_x$ reacts with Mg in ether to give $(\text{SiBr}_{1.46})_x$. DE 955414 B likewise discloses a reaction at high temperature. If SiBr_4 or Br_2 vapor is passed through silicon grit in
 20 vacuo at $1000\text{--}1200^\circ\text{C}$, mainly $(\text{SiBr}_2)_x$ results in addition to some Si_2Br_6 .

According to M. Schmeisser, Angewandte Chemie 66 (1954) 713-714, in addition to $(\text{SiBr})_x$ also Si_2Br_6 and further
 25 oligosilanes such as $\text{Si}_{10}\text{Br}_{16}$ are formed by action of SiBr_4 on elemental Si at 1150°C .

In US 2007/0078252 A1, the ring-opening polymerization of cyclo- $\text{Si}_5\text{Br}_{10}$ and cyclo- Si_5I_{10} by action of Bu_4NF in
 30 THF or DME is claimed.

For example, E. Hengge, D. Kovar, Angewandte Chemie 93 (1981) 698-701 or K. Hassler, U. Katzenbeisser, Journal of organometallic chemistry 480 (1994) 173-175 report
 35 on the production of short-chain periodinated polysilanes. By reaction of the phenylcyclosilanes $(\text{SiPh}_2)_n$ ($n = 4 - 6$) or of Si_3Ph_8 with HI under AlI_3

catalysis, the periodinated cyclosilanes $(\text{SiI}_2)_n$ ($n = 4 - 6$) or Si_3I_8 result.

M. Schmeisser, K. Friederich, Angewandte Chemie 76
 5 (1964) 782 describe various routes for the preparation of periodinated polysilanes. $(\text{SiI}_2)_x$ results in about 1% yield on passing SiI_4 vapor over elemental silicon at 800-900°C in a high vacuum. The pyrolysis of SiI_4 under the same conditions yields the same very hydrolysis-
 10 sensitive and benzene-soluble product. On the action of a glow discharge on SiI_4 vapors in a high vacuum, a solid, amorphous, yellow-reddish silicon sub-iodide of the composition $(\text{SiI}_{2.2})_x$ insoluble in all customary solvents is obtained with a yield of 60 to 70% (based
 15 on SiI_4). The pyrolysis of this substance at 220 to 230°C in a high vacuum leads to a dark-red $(\text{SiI}_2)_x$, simultaneously forming SiI_4 and Si_2I_6 . The chemical properties of the compounds $(\text{SiI}_2)_x$ thus obtained coincide - except for the solubility in benzene. The
 20 pyrolysis of $(\text{SiI}_2)_x$ at 350°C in a high vacuum affords SiI_4 , Si_2I_6 and an orange-red, brittle solid of the composition $(\text{SiI})_x$. $(\text{SiI}_2)_x$ reacts with chlorine or bromine between -30°C and +25°C to give benzene-soluble mixed silicon sub-halides such as $(\text{SiClI})_x$ and $(\text{SiBrI})_x$.
 25 At higher temperatures, the Si-Si chains are cleaved by chlorine or bromine with simultaneous complete substitution of the iodine. Compounds of the type $\text{Si}_n\text{X}_{2n+2}$ ($n = 2-6$ for $\text{X} = \text{Cl}$, $n = 2-5$ for $\text{X} = \text{Br}$) are obtained. $(\text{SiI}_2)_x$ reacts completely with iodine at 90 to
 30 120°C in a bomb tube to give SiI_4 and Si_2I_6 .

The present invention is based on the object of creating a halogenated polysilane of the type indicated, which is particularly readily soluble and
 35 fusible. Furthermore, a process for the preparation of such a halogenated polysilane is to be provided.

This object is achieved according to the invention with a halogenated polysilane of the type indicated in that the polysilane consists of rings and chains with a high proportion of branching sites which, based on the total product mixture, is greater than 1%, has a RAMAN molecular vibration spectrum of $I_{100}/I_{132} < 1$, where I_{100} denotes the Raman intensity at 100 cm^{-1} and I_{132} denotes the Raman intensity at 132 cm^{-1} , and in the ^{29}Si NMR spectra has its significant product signals in the chemical shift range from +23 ppm to -13 ppm, from -18 ppm to -33 ppm and from -73 ppm to -93 ppm.

The ^{29}Si NMR spectra were recorded on a 250 MHz apparatus of the Bruker DPX 250 type with the pulse sequence zg30 and referenced against tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the external standard [$\delta(^{29}\text{Si}) = 0.0$]. The acquisition parameters here are: TD = 32k, AQ = 1.652 s, D1 = 10 s, NS = 2400, OlP = -40, SW = 400.

The RAMAN molecular vibration spectra were determined with an XY 800 spectrometer from Dilor with adjustable laser excitation (T-sapphire laser, pumped by Ar ion laser) and confocal Raman and luminescence microscope, with liquid nitrogen-cooled CCD detector, measuring temperature equal to room temperature, excitation wavelengths in the visible spectral range, inter alia 514.53 nm and 750 nm.

The halogenated polysilane formed according to the invention is prepared using considerably "milder" conditions, than described, for example, in [Schmeisser 1964]. This means that the reaction is carried out at lower temperature and elevated pressure, whereby an excess of SiX_4 (X = halogen) is present in the gas phase, with which the SiX_2 formed can react with insertion into the Si-X bonds. By means of this, the degree of polymerization of the SiX_2 is reduced, whereby

a liquid and better-soluble product results. Moreover, the conversion rate is increased, whereby a technical preparation process is obtained.

5 The polysilane has a slight coloration from dull-yellow to yellowish-light brown and is not glassy and highly polymeric, but oily to viscous, which shows that the degree of polymerization is considerably lower. The polysilane is a complex substance mixture with average
10 molar masses of up to about 900 g/mol.

The degree of branching was determined by ^{29}Si NMR spectroscopy. It was discovered here that the halogenated polysilanes prepared using the process
15 according to the invention have a high content of branched short-chain and cyclic compounds, their branching sites having a content in the total mixture of more than 1%. The branchings in the ^{29}Si NMR are seen here in a range from $\delta = -18$ to -33 ppm and $\delta = -73$ to
20 -93 ppm. In standard ^{29}Si NMR spectra of the polysilanes according to the invention clear resonances are seen in these regions.

The high content of branched polysilanes is thus
25 related to the fact that the latter are thermodynamically more favorable than halogenated polysilanes having unbranched chains and therefore preferably result in the thermal reaction that proceeds near to the thermodynamic equilibrium. The content of
30 cyclosilanes was also determined by ^{29}Si NMR spectroscopy and additionally by RAMAN spectroscopy (see below), where it was seen that a relatively high content of cyclic molecules is present.

35 The halogenated polysilanes formed according to the invention further have a RAMAN molecular vibration spectrum of $I_{100}/I_{132} < 1$. In particular, weak Raman

signals in the range from 95-110 cm^{-1} occur in the low frequency range, while in the range 120-135 cm^{-1} significantly stronger Raman intensities were measured.

5 For explanation of this, attention may be called to the following. Theoretical quantum mechanical calculations for cyclic halogenated polysilanes show, inter alia, intensive characteristic vibration modes of between 120 cm^{-1} and 135 cm^{-1} . Such calculations for linear
10 halogenated polysilanes, however, show no distinctive modes in this range. The lowest frequency, intensive modes of the linear compounds, however, shift with increasing chain lengths to smaller wavelengths. In the mixture of halogenated polysilanes, they appear as RAMAN
15 bands between 95 and 110 cm^{-1} . In this way, a conclusion about the content of cyclic and linear molecules can be made from the I_{100}/I_{132} criterion.

The halogenated polysilane according to the invention
20 is further distinguished in that it is completely soluble in many inert solvents, such that it can easily be removed from a reactor used for the preparation.

The halogenated polysilane formed according to the
25 invention can in particular be dissolved readily in inert solvents, such as SiCl_4 , benzene, toluene, paraffin etc, namely both at room temperature and also in cold and warm or boiling solvents. This is in contrast to the halogenated polysilane prepared
30 according to the publication mentioned above (DE 10 2005 024 041 A1), that is not soluble at all in such solvents or can only be dissolved to a small extent.

The halogenated polysilane is preferably characterized
35 in that its substituents consist exclusively of halogen.

The halogenated polysilane formed according to the invention preferably has a high content of branched chains and rings. It is oily to viscous without exception.

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The halogenated polysilane according to the invention is intrinsically clean on use of correspondingly pure starting materials and consists only of Si and X (X = halogen).

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To a considerable extent, the halogenated polysilanes according to the invention are further not volatile even under vacuum and decompose if it is attempted to distil them.

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The halogenated polysilane formed according to the invention further differs compared to the plasma-chemically prepared polysilane of the said prior art (DE 10 2005 024 041 A1) in that the polysilane crude mixture prepared has a lower average chain length of $n = 3-9$.

Finally, the plasma-chemically prepared halogenated polysilane of the prior art has a higher melting temperature than the halogenated polysilane according to the invention.

A further distinguishing criterion compared to the prior art (DE 10 2005 024 041 A1; DE 10 2006 034 061 A1; WO 2008/031427 A2; WO 81/03168) consists in the fact that the halogenated polysilane according to the invention contains no hydrogen substituents.

The polysilane according to the invention is further highly pure with respect to catalyst and solvent contamination on account of its preparation in a high temperature symproportionation process, which is a

further distinguishing feature to the wet-chemical process for the preparation of polysilanes, since in the latter process traces of solvents and metal salt-like reagents always remain in the product.

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The invention relates in particular to a chlorinated polysilane.

10 The abovementioned object is further achieved by a process for the preparation of halogenated polysilane of the type described above by reacting halosilane with silicon at high temperatures, which is characterized in that the reaction is carried out with an excess of halosilane with respect to the dihalosilylene (SiX_2)
15 formed in the reactor. This can take place, for example, by adjusting the retention time of the halosilane in a silicon packed bed used to the grain size of the silicon used.

20 The working pressure compared to the prior art (smaller than 10^{-3} hPa, Schmeisser 1964) is further preferably significantly increased (0.1-1000 hPa) in order to increase the probability of active collisions of the SiX_2 formed with SiX_4 in the gas phase, whereby
25 polymerization of the SiX_2 formed by wall reactions is suppressed. By means of this measure on the one hand the formation of a highly polymeric, glassy, slightly green-yellow solid described in the literature (Schmeisser 1964) is suppressed and on the other hand
30 the conversion rate to the polysilanes according to the invention is significantly increased (greater than 4 times) compared to the prior art. A further differentiating feature is the lower average molar mass of the polysilanes of 300-900 g/mol compared to 1600-
35 1700 g/mol in Schmeisser 1964.

As far as the temperature of the reactor in which the process according to the invention is carried out is concerned, the reactor parts on which the halogenated polysilane is deposited are preferably kept at a temperature of -70°C to 300°C , in particular -20°C to 280°C . Generally, the temperature of the deposition zone is kept relatively low in order to avoid the formation of Si.

Using the process according to the invention, molecular mixtures with average molar masses of 300-900 g/mol can be prepared.

A particularly preferred halogenated polysilane according to the invention are the perchloro-polysilanes (PCS).

For the process according to the invention, all energy sources that can bring the reactor to the necessary reaction temperatures, for example electrical resistance heating, gas burners or solar furnaces (concave mirror), can be used for carrying out the reaction. Electrical resistance heating is preferably used, since a very accurate temperature control is possible with this.

A halosilane is used as a starting substance for the process according to the invention. A halosilane within the meaning of the process according to the invention is designated as compounds of the type SiX_4 ($\text{X} = \text{F}, \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$) and their mixtures, it also being possible to employ halosilanes with mixed halogen substitution.

The gas mixture (halosilane(s)) used in the process according to the invention can additionally be diluted by an inert gas and/or contain admixtures which favor product formation. The admixture of inert gases,

however, is not compulsory in the process according to the invention.

5 In the process according to the invention, fluoro-silanes or chlorosilanes are preferably employed as the halosilane. A particularly preferred starting compound is SiCl_4 .

10 The halogenated polysilane according to the invention can also contain halogen substituents from several different halogens.

In the process according to the invention, halosilanes with mixed halogen substitution can also be employed.

Working example 1

210 g of SiCl_4 are led in vapor form into an evacuated quartz glass tube, which is conducted at a gradient of about 30° through a furnace, and the SiCl_4 vapor is led through a 20 cm long silicon packed bed heated to 1200°C , the process pressure being kept at about 1 hPa. After leaving the heated zone, the product mixture is condensed on the quartz glass walls cooled to 20°C and mostly drains into a receiver flask cooled to -196°C . After 6 h, the viscous red-brown product is removed from the reactor by dissolving in a little SiCl_4 and filtered. After removing the SiCl_4 in vacuo, about 80 g of chlorinated polysilane remain in the form of a red-brown viscous liquid.

The typical ^{29}Si NMR shifts and the high content of various, short-chain branched compounds, e.g. deca-chloroisotetrasilane (inter alia $\delta = -32$ ppm), dodeca-chloroneopentasilane (inter alia $\delta = -80$ ppm) (these signals occur in the shift region at (3), which is typical for signals of SiCl groups (tertiary Si atoms), and (4), which is typical for signals of Si groups with exclusively Si substituents (quaternary Si atoms)), are apparent on the basis of the following spectrum (Fig. 1). By integration of the ^{29}Si NMR spectra, it is seen that the content of silicon atoms that form said branching sites (tertiary and quaternary Si atoms) of the short-chain fraction, based on the total product mixture, is 1.8 mass% and is thus > 1 mass%. The chemical shifts in the ^{29}Si NMR spectra at $+23$ ppm to -13 ppm ((1) and (2)) show signals of SiCl_3 (end groups) and SiCl_2 groups (unbranched chain or cycle sections), the signals in the range from -18 ppm to -33 ppm ((3)) show signals of SiCl groups and of the solvent SiCl_4 (about -19.6 ppm), as they are present, for example, in decachloroisotetrasilane, and the signals in the range

from -73 ppm to -93 ppm are to be attributed to quaternary Si atoms of the chlorinated polysilanes, as they are present, for example, in dodecachloroneopentasilane. The average molar mass is
 5 determined by cryoscopy to be about 973 g/mol, which corresponds to the chlorinated polysilane $(\text{SiCl}_2)_n$ or $\text{Si}_n\text{Cl}_{2n+2}$ obtained having an average chain length of about $n = 10$ for $(\text{SiCl}_2)_n$ or about $n = 9$ for $\text{Si}_n\text{Cl}_{2n+2}$. The ratio of Si to Cl in the product mixture is
 10 determined after decomposition by chloride titration according to MOHR to be Si:Cl=1:2.1 (corresponds to the empirical (analytical) formula $\text{SiCl}_{2.1}$). The signal at about -19.6 ppm originates from the solvent tetrachlorosilane. Low molecular weight cyclosilanes
 15 can be detected in the mixtures by RAMAN spectroscopy by means of intensive bands in the region of 132 cm^{-1} . Indications of the presence of cyclosilanes are also found in the ^{29}Si NMR spectra by the signals at $\delta = -1.6$ ppm ($\text{Si}_5\text{Cl}_{10}$) and $\delta = -2.7$ ppm ($\text{Si}_6\text{Cl}_{12}$).

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A typical RAMAN molecular vibration spectrum of the chlorinated polysilane is shown below (Fig. 2). The spectrum has a ratio I_{100}/I_{132} of < 1 , i.e., the Raman intensity at 132 cm^{-1} (I_{132}) is clearly higher than that
 25 at 100 cm^{-1} (I_{100}). For comparison, the spectrum of a plasma-chemically produced polysilane mixture and the calculated spectrum of cyclic tetrasilane (octachlorocyclotetrasilane, Si_4Cl_8) are shown, where in the case of the plasma-chemically produced polysilane
 30 mixture the ratio changes to $I_{100}/I_{132} > 1$.

This chart also shows by way of example the section of a theoretical curve (red). Here, the quantum chemically-calculated modes [Hohenberg P, Kohn W, 1964.
 35 Phys. Rev. B 136:864-71; Kohn W, Sham LJ. 1965. Phys. Rev. A 140:1133-38, W. Koch and M. C. Holthausen, A

Chemist's Guide to Density Functional Theory, Wiley, Weinheim, 2nd edn., 2000] are fitted using a multi-Lorentz peak function, which simulates, for example, the experimental spectral resolution. With respect to the absolute intensity, the theoretical curve was standardized such that it fitted well into the chart for illustration. The relative intensities of the peaks in theory originate directly from the first principle calculation. It should thus be shown that certain intensities are typical of cyclic oligosilanes.

Working example 2

158 g of SiCl_4 are led in vapor form into an evacuated quartz glass tube, which is conducted at a gradient of about 30° through a furnace, and the SiCl_4 vapor is led through a 10 cm long silicon packed bed heated to 1200°C , the process pressure being kept at about 5 hPa. After leaving the heated zone, the product mixture is condensed on the cooled quartz glass walls and partly drains into a cooled receiver flask. After 3 hours, the viscous yellow-brownish product is removed from the reactor by dissolving in a little SiCl_4 and filtered. After removing the SiCl_4 in vacuo, 27 g of chlorinated polysilane remain in the form of a slightly yellow viscous liquid. The typical ^{29}Si NMR shifts and the high content of various, short-chain branched compounds, e.g. decachloroisotetrasilane (inter alia $\delta = -32$ ppm), dodecachloroneopentasilane (inter alia $\delta = -80$ ppm) (these signals occur in the shift range at (3), which is typical for signals of SiCl groups (tertiary Si atoms), and (4), which is typical for signals of Si groups with exclusively Si substituents (quaternary Si atoms)), are apparent with the aid of the following spectrum (Fig. 3). By integration of the ^{29}Si NMR spectra, it is seen that the content of silicon atoms

that form said branching sites (tertiary and quaternary Si atoms) of the short-chain fraction, based on the total product mixture, is 2.1 mass% and is thus greater than 1 mass%. The chemical shifts in the ^{29}Si NMR spectra at +23 ppm to -13 ppm ((1) and (2)) show signals of SiCl_3 (end groups) and SiCl_2 groups (unbranched chain or cycle sections), the signals in the range from -18 ppm to -33 ppm ((3)) show signals of SiCl groups and of the solvent SiCl_4 (about -19.6 ppm), as they are present, for example, in decachloroisotetrasilane, and the signals in the range from -73 ppm to -93 ppm are to be attributed to quaternary Si atoms of the chlorinated polysilanes, as they are present, for example, in dodecachloroneopentasilane.

After removal of readily volatile oligosilanes in vacuo, the average molar mass is determined by cryoscopy to be about 795 g/mol, which corresponds for the chlorinated polysilane $(\text{SiCl}_2)_n$ or $\text{Si}_n\text{Cl}_{2n+2}$ to an average chain length of about $n = 8$ for $(\text{SiCl}_2)_n$ or about $n = 7$ for $\text{Si}_n\text{Cl}_{2n+2}$. The ratio of Si to Cl in the product mixture is determined after decomposition by chloride titration according to MOHR to be $\text{Si}:\text{Cl} = 1:2$ (corresponds to the empirical (analytical) formula SiCl_2). The signal at about -19.6 ppm originates from the solvent tetrachlorosilane. Low molecular weight cyclosilanes could be detected in the mixtures by RAMAN spectroscopy by means of intensive bands in the region of 132 cm^{-1} . The signals at $\delta = -1.6\text{ ppm}$ ($\text{Si}_5\text{Cl}_{10}$) and $\delta = -2.7\text{ ppm}$ ($\text{Si}_6\text{Cl}_{12}$) show the presence of cyclosilanes in the ^{29}Si NMR spectra.

Working example 3

125 g of SiCl_4 are added dropwise to a quartz glass tube, which is conducted at a gradient of about 30°

through a furnace, evaporated and the SiCl_4 vapor is led through a 10 cm long silicon packed bed heated to 1200°C , the process pressure being kept constant at about 1013 hPa. After leaving the heated zone, the product gas mixture is condensed on the quartz glass walls cooled to 20°C and mostly drains into a receiver flask cooled to 0°C . After 4 h 30 min, the brownish product is removed from the reactor by dissolving in a little SiCl_4 and filtered. After removing the SiCl_4 in vacuo, 10 g of chlorinated polysilane remain in the form of a slightly yellow oily liquid.

The typical ^{29}Si NMR shifts and the content of various, short-chain branched compounds, e.g. deca-chloroisotetrasilane (inter alia $\delta = -32$ ppm), dodecachloroneopentasilane (inter alia $\delta = -80$ ppm) (these signals occur in the shift region at (3), which is typical for signals of SiCl groups (tertiary Si atoms), and (4), which is typical for signals of Si groups with exclusively Si substituents (quaternary Si atoms)), are apparent on the basis of the following spectrum (Fig. 4). By integration of the ^{29}Si NMR spectra, it is seen that the content of silicon atoms that form said branching sites (tertiary and quaternary Si atoms) of the short-chain fraction, based on the total product mixture, is 1.1 mass% and is thus greater than 1 mass%. The chemical shifts in the ^{29}Si NMR spectrum at +23 ppm to -13 ppm ((1) and (2)) show signals of SiCl_3 (end groups) and SiCl_2 groups (unbranched chain or cycle sections), the signals in the range from -18 ppm to -33 ppm ((3)) show signals of SiCl groups, as they are present, for example, in decachloroisotetrasilane, and the signals in the range from -73 ppm to -93 ppm are to be attributed to quaternary Si atoms of the chlorinated polysilanes, as they are present, for example, in dodecachloroneopentasilane.

The average molar mass is determined by cryoscopy to be about 315 g/mol, which corresponds for the chlorinated polysilane $(\text{SiCl}_2)_n$ or $\text{Si}_n\text{Cl}_{2n+2}$ to an average chain
5 length of about $n = 3.2$ for $(\text{SiCl}_2)_n$ or about $n = 2.4$ for $\text{Si}_n\text{Cl}_{2n+2}$. The ratio of Si to Cl in the product mixture is determined after decomposition by chloride titration according to MOHR to be $\text{Si}:\text{Cl}=1:2.8$ (corresponds to the empirical (analytical) formula
10 $\text{SiCl}_{2.8}$). The signal in the ^{29}Si NMR spectrum at about -46 ppm originates from the solvent hexachloro-disiloxane.

Patent claims

1. A halogenated polysilane as a pure compound or mixture of compounds each having at least one direct Si-Si bond, whose substituents consist of halogen and in whose composition the atomic ratio substituent:silicon is at least 1:1, characterized in that the polysilane consists of rings and chains with a high proportion of branching sites which, based on the total product mixture, is $> 1\%$, has a RAMAN molecular vibration spectrum of $I_{100}/I_{132} < 1$, where I_{100} denotes the Raman intensity at 100 cm^{-1} and I_{132} denotes the Raman intensity at 132 cm^{-1} , and in the ^{29}Si NMR spectra has its significant product signals in the chemical shift range from $+23\text{ ppm}$ to -13 ppm , from -18 ppm to -33 ppm and from -73 ppm to -93 ppm .
2. The halogenated polysilane according to claim 1, characterized in that it mainly contains branched chains.
3. The halogenated polysilane according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the average chain length of the crude mixture of halogenated polysilane corresponds to $n = 3-9$.
4. The halogenated polysilane according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is oily to viscous.
5. The halogenated polysilane according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it has a slightly yellow to intensively orange or red-brown color.

6. The halogenated polysilane according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is readily soluble in inert solvents.
7. A process for preparing halogenated polysilane according to one of the preceding claims, in which halosilane is reacted with silicon at high temperatures, characterized in that the reaction is carried out with an excess of halosilane with respect to the dihalosilylene (SiX_2) formed.
8. The process according to claim 7, characterized in that it is carried out at a temperature of over 700°C .
9. The process according to claim 7 or 8, characterized in that the retention time of the halosilane in a packed bed of the silicon used is adjusted to the grain size of the silicon.
10. The process according to one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that it is carried out in a pressure range from 0.1-1013 hPa.
11. The process according to one of claims 7 to 10, characterized in that the reactor parts on which the halogenated polysilane is to be deposited are kept at a temperature of -70°C to 300°C , in particular -20°C to 280°C .