



The Use of a C-3 Building Block for Preparing New Chemicals for Different Applications

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- The ISCaMaP Research Group @ PoliMi
- A C-3 building block
- Valorization:
 - functionalization of carbon allotropes
 - new polymers
 - sulphur based crosslinking of diene elastomers



Department of Chemistry Materials and Chemical Engineering
G. Natta





Research on sustainable chemistry



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ISCaMaP

*Innovative Sustainable Chemistry and Materials and Proteomics
Group*

From the European Parliament

“The recent experience of the development of certain renewable energy sources, particularly biofuels from food and feed crops such as cereals, oilseeds and sugar, has stimulated concern that new biorefinery processes must as far as possible be based on non-competing wastes and residues to minimise impacts on food availability and prices.”

*European Parliament - Science and Technology Options Assessment
“Technology options for feeding 10 billion people”
September 2013*

From wastes and residues to useful products

From the European Parliament

Objectives

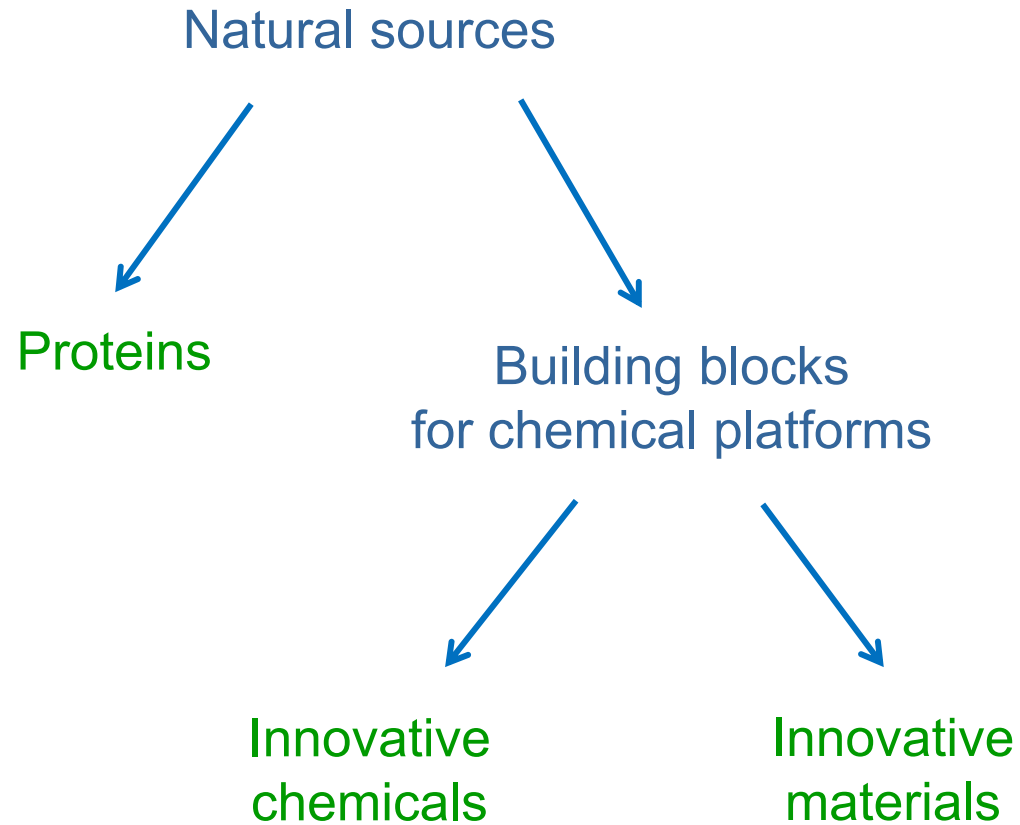
- ☞ To transform waste and residue streams into useful products
- ☞ To identify potential markets for these products.

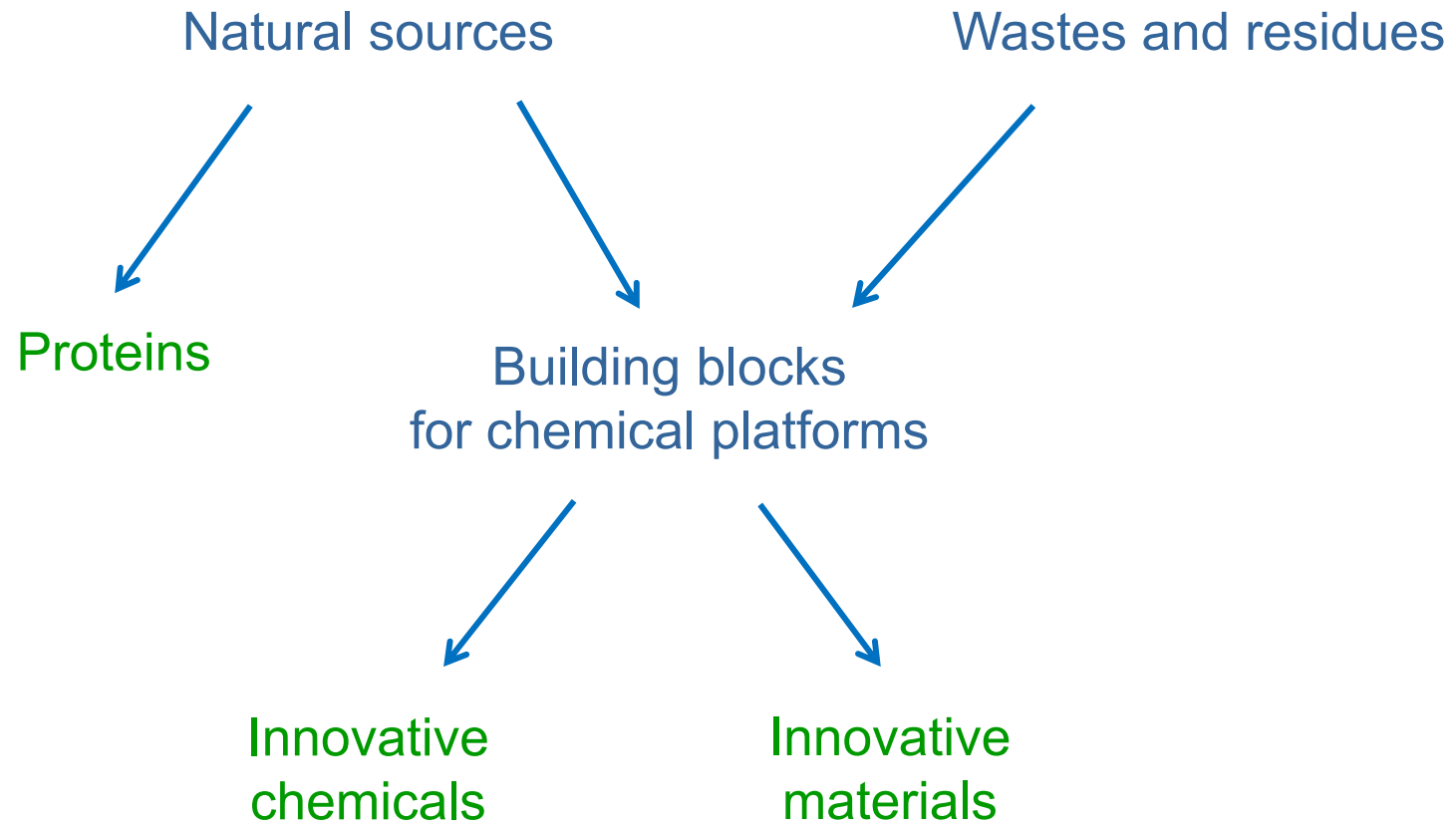
Waste and residue streams

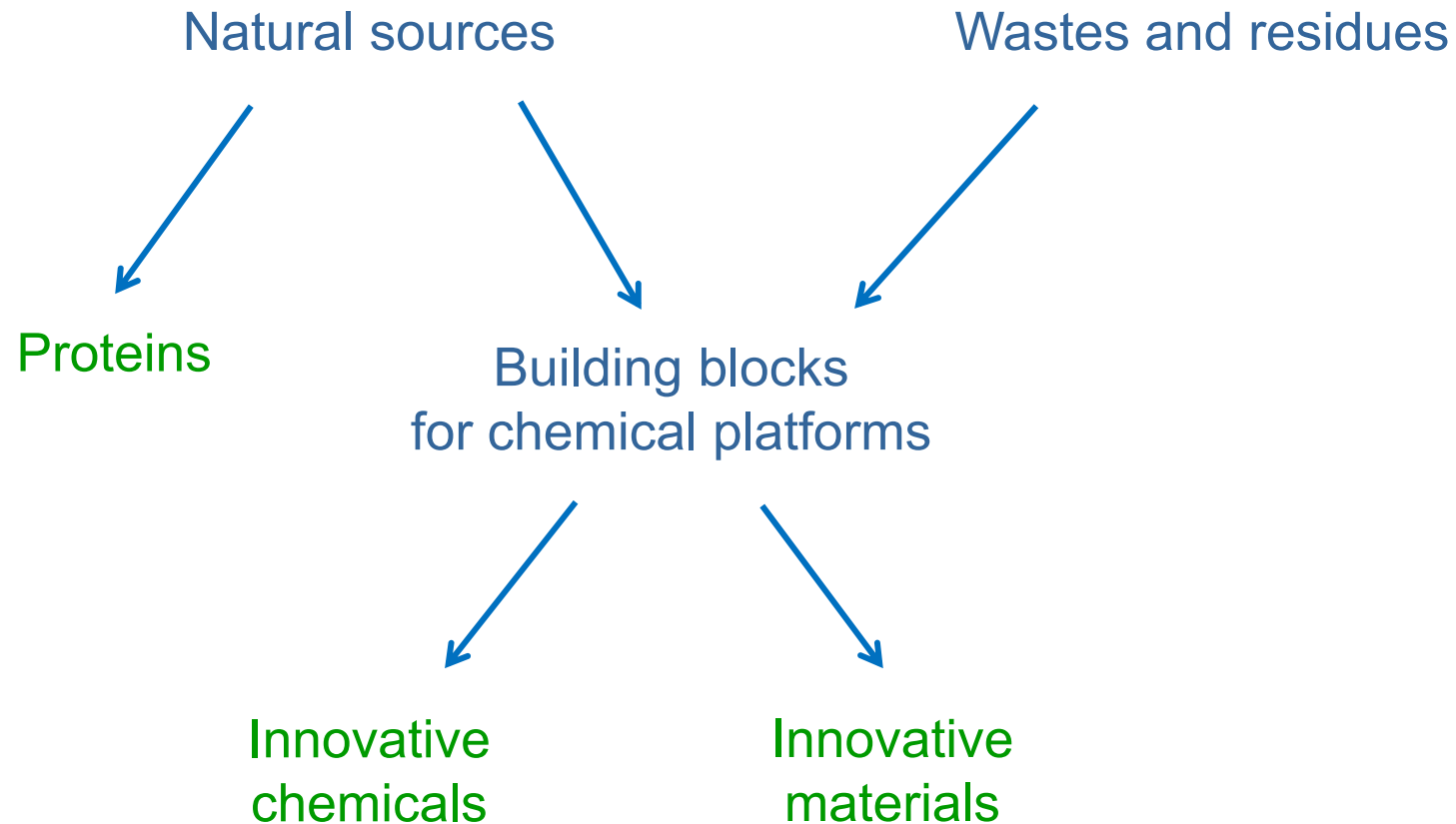
“some of these materials have largely been considered a nuisance, and a challenge for disposal without polluting the environment.

It is highly attractive therefore to be able to switch mind-set and see such materials as useful feedstocks or raw materials.”

*European Parliament - Science and Technology Options Assessment
“Technology options for feeding 10 billion people”
September 2013*







 **Chemicals, Additives, Modifiers, Polymers**

The DOE's Top Chemical Opportunities

Four Carbon 1,4-Diacids: Succinic, Fumaric and Malic

2,5-Furan dicarboxylic acid

3-Hydroxypropionic acid

Glucaric acid

Glycerol

Aspartic acid

Itaconic acid

3-Hydroxybutyrolactone

Sorbitol (Alcohol Sugar of Glucose)

Xylitol/arabinitol (Sugar alcohols from xylose and arabinose)

Glutamic acid

Levulinic acid

DOE = US Department of Energy

Criteria used in evaluating biobased product opportunities from carbohydrates

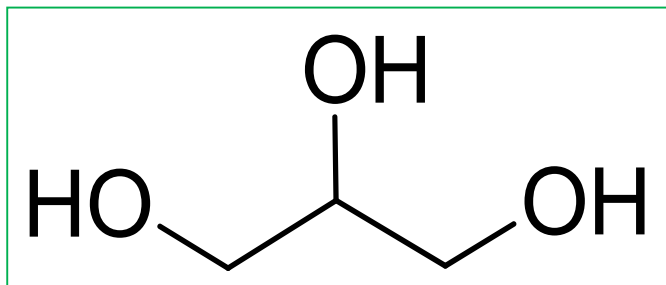
1. *The compound or technology has received significant attention in the literature.* A high level of reported research identifies both broad technology areas and structures of importance to the biorefinery.
2. *The compound illustrates a broad technology applicable to multiple products.* As in the petrochemical industry, the most valuable technologies are those that can be adapted to the production of several different structures.
3. *The technology provides direct substitutes for existing petrochemicals.* Products recognized by the chemical industry provide a valuable interface with existing infrastructure and utility.
4. *The technology is applicable to high volume products.* Conversion processes leading to high volume functional equivalents or utility within key industrial segments will have particular impact.
5. *A compound exhibits strong potential as a platform.* Compounds that serve as starting materials for the production of derivatives offer important flexibility and breadth to the biorefinery.
6. *Scaleup of the product or a technology to pilot, demo, or full scale is underway.* The impact of a biobased product and the technology for its production is greatly enhanced upon scaleup.
7. *The biobased compound is an existing commercial product, prepared at intermediate or commodity levels.* Research leading to production improvements or new uses for existing biobased chemicals improves their utility.
8. *The compound may serve as a primary building block of the biorefinery.* The petrochemical refinery is built on a small number of initial building blocks: olefins, BTX, methane, CO. Those compounds that are able to serve an analogous role in the biorefinery will be of high importance.
9. *Commercial production of the compound from renewable carbon is well established.* The potential utility of a given compound is improved if its manufacturing process is already recognized within the industry.

Glycerol addresses

all the criteria

Green Chem., 2010, 12, 539–554

Glycerol



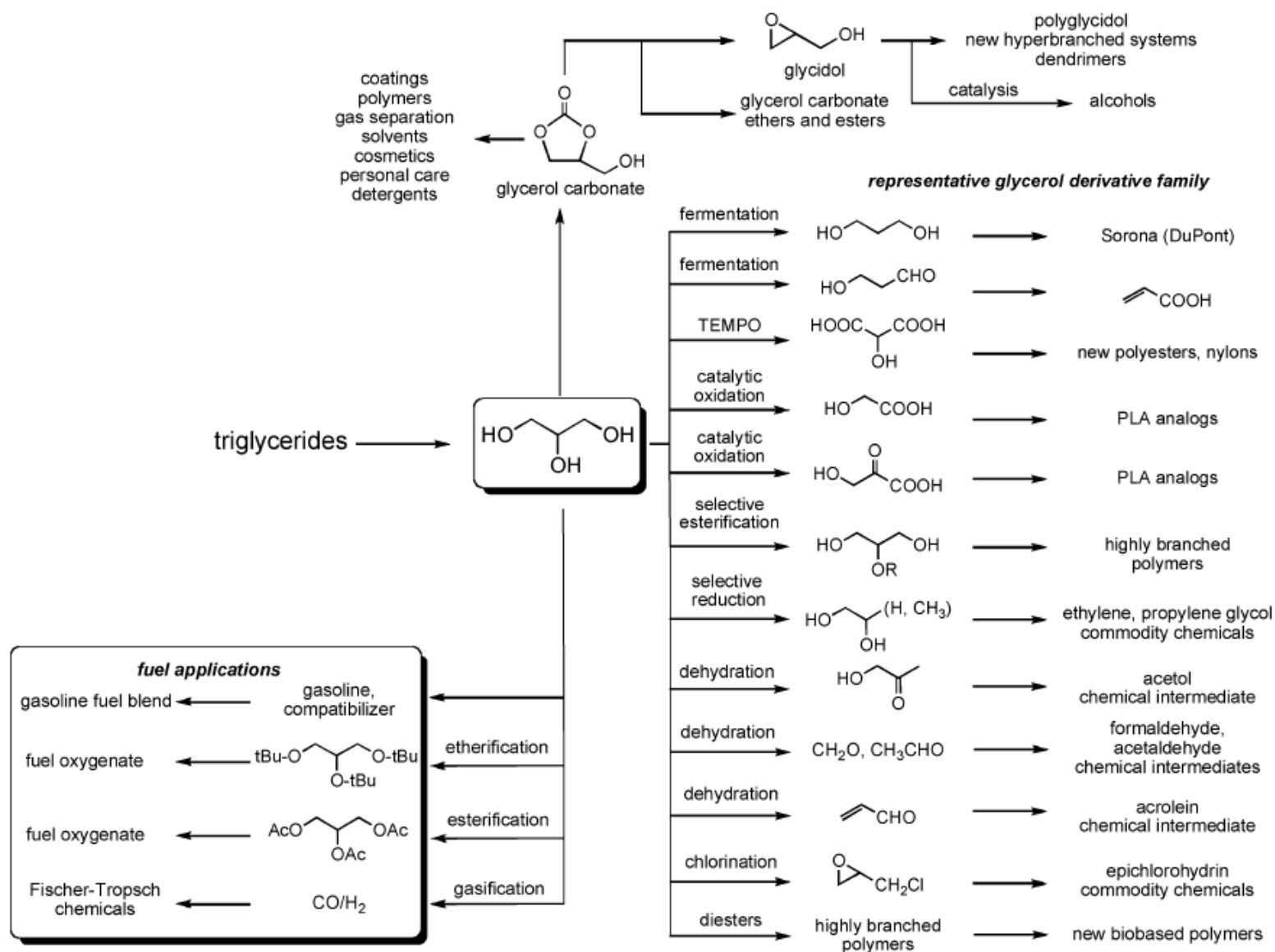
IUPAC: propane-1,2,3-triol

Formula: $C_3H_8O_3$

92.09 Da

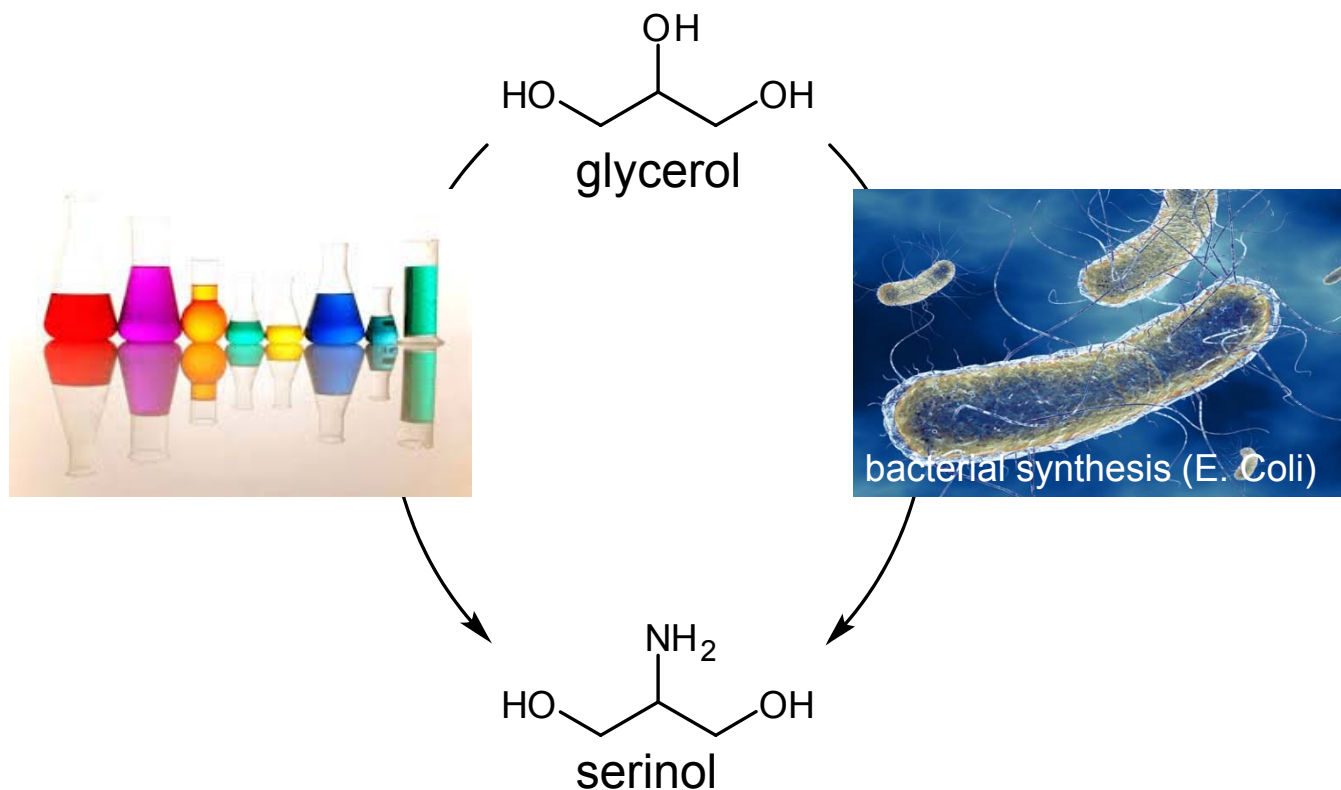
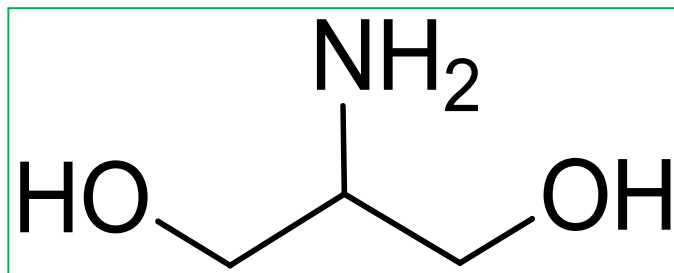
- ☞ easily available, cheap raw material
- ☞ main by-product of bio-diesel production
- ☞ not toxic
- ☞ biodegradable

Glycerol: a primary biorefinery building block

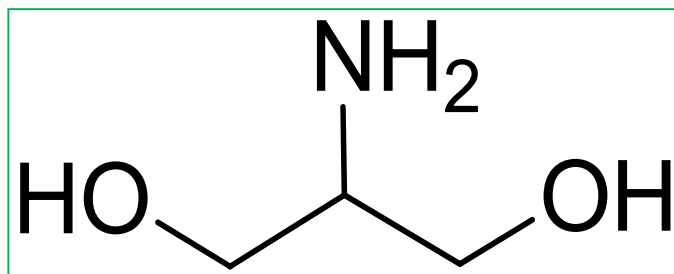


Green Chem., 2010, 12, 539–554

Selection of the building block: serinol

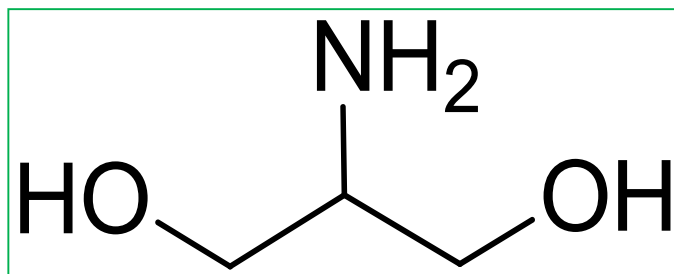


Selection of the building block: serinol



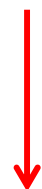
- ☞ Starting building block for many reaction pathways: many derivatives
- ☞ Chemoselectivity

Selection of the building block: serinol



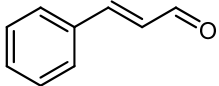
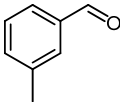

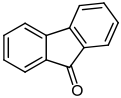
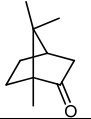
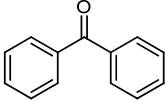
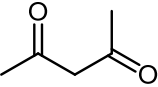
☞ Starting building block for many reaction pathways: many derivatives

☞ Chemoselectivity



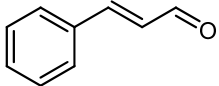
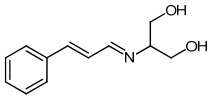
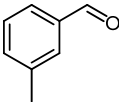
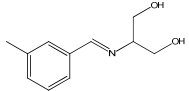

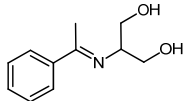
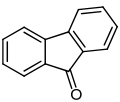
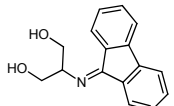
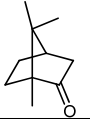
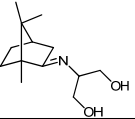
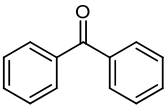
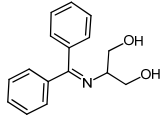
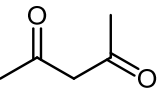
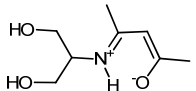
Reactions of the amino group with carbonyl compounds

Reaction of serinol with carbonyl compounds

Carbonyl Compound








☞ Aromatic and sterically hindered carbonyl compounds

Imines from the Reaction of serinol with carbonyl compounds

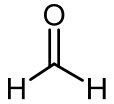

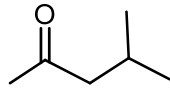
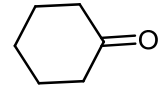
Carbonyl Compound	Product	Yield (%)
		92
		98
		83
		80
		70
		75
		95

Imines

☞ Aromatic and sterically hindered carbonyl compounds

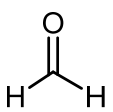
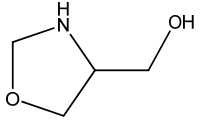

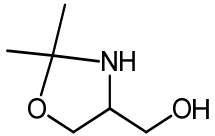
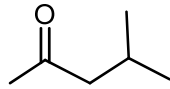
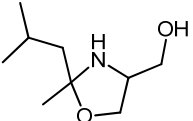
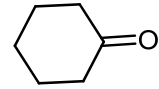
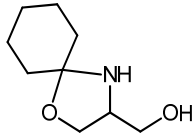
lead to Imines

Reaction of serinol with carbonyl compounds

Carbonyl Compound





☞ Aliphatic carbonyl compounds with low steric hindrance

Oxazolidines from the Reaction of serinol with carbonyl compounds

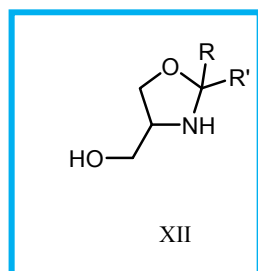
Carbonyl Compound	Product	Yield (%)
		56
		90
		95
		90

Oxazolidines

☞ Aliphatic carbonyl compounds with low steric hindrance
lead to oxazolidines

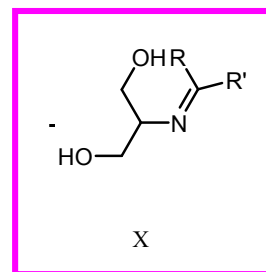
Reaction of serinol with carbonyl compounds.

Without steric hindrance
and aromatic substituents



Oxazolidines

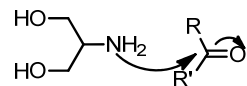
With steric hindrance
and aromatic substituents



Imines

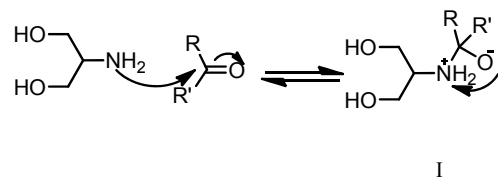
Reaction of serinol with carbonyl compounds – Hypothesis of a mechanism

The nucleophilic nitrogen reacts with carbonyl group



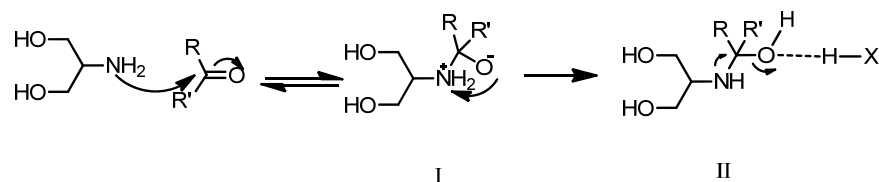
Reaction of serinol with carbonyl compounds – Hypothesis of a mechanism

Proton transfer



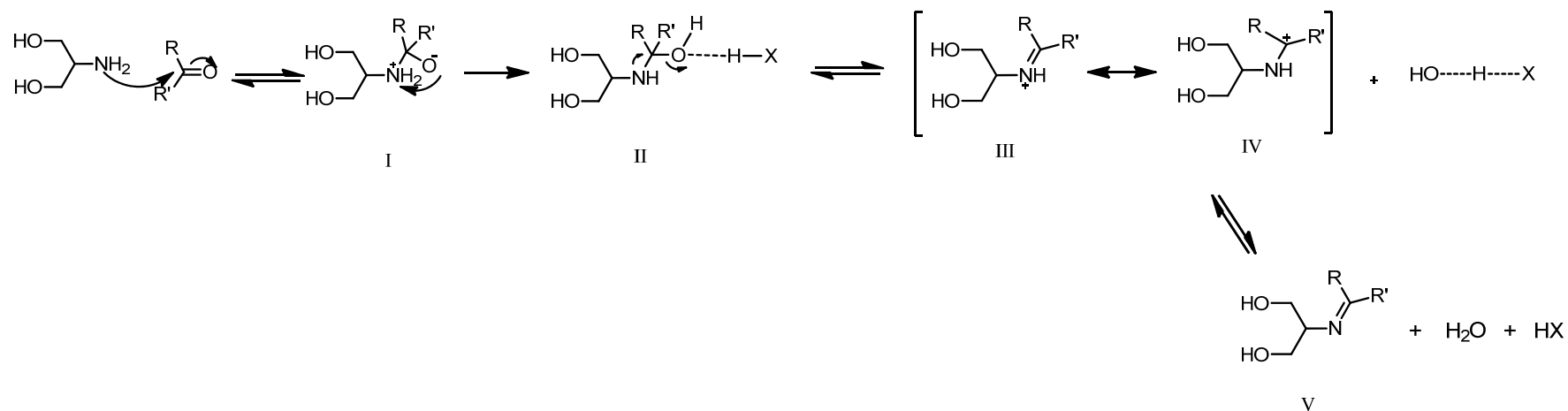
Reaction of serinol with carbonyl compounds – Hypothesis of a mechanism

Release of a water molecule



H—X = General or specific acid cat.

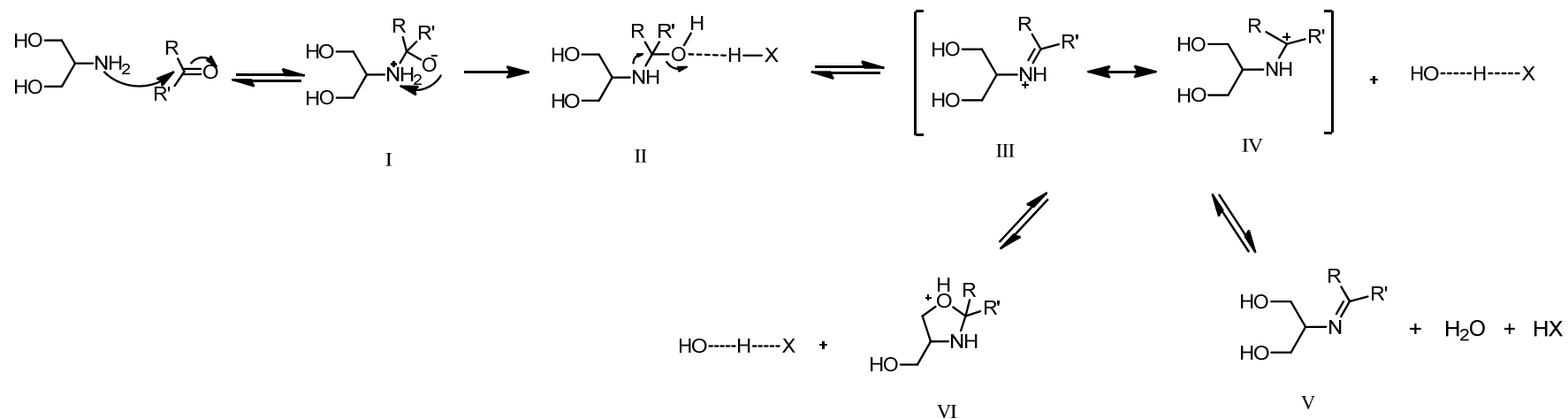
Reaction of serinol with carbonyl compounds – Hypothesis of a mechanism



Proton abstraction. Formation of an imine

H—X = General or specific acid cat.

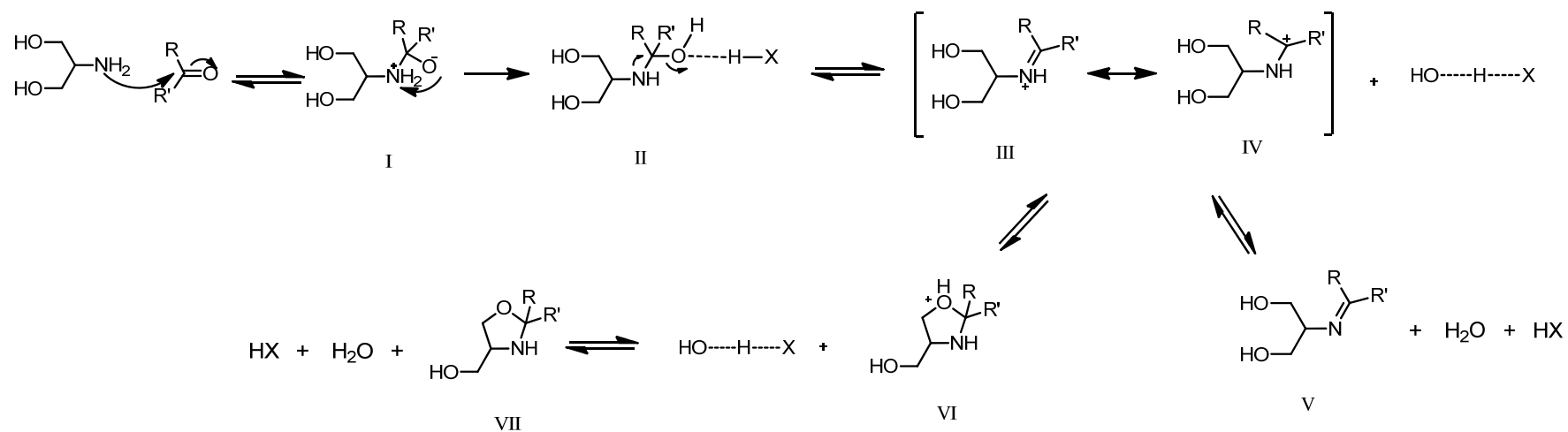
Reaction of serinol with carbonyl compounds – Hypothesis of a mechanism



Nucleophilic intramolecular addition: protonated oxazolidine

H—X = General or specific acid cat.

Reaction of serinol with carbonyl compounds – Hypothesis of a mechanism



Proton abstraction

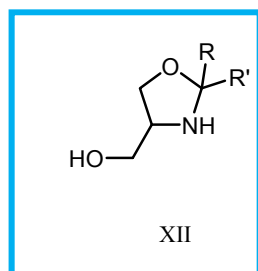
H—X = General or specific acid cat.



Functionalization of sp^2 carbon allotropes

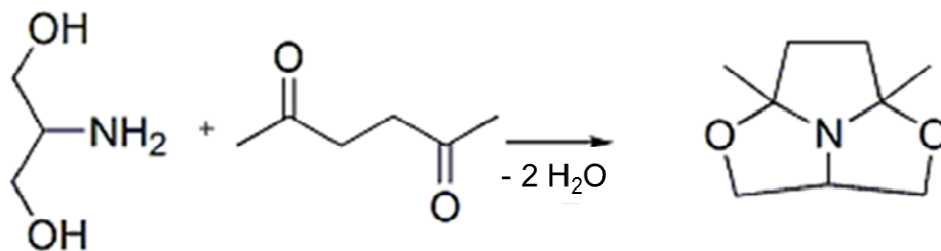
Reaction of serinol with carbonyl compounds.

Without steric hindrance
and aromatic substituents



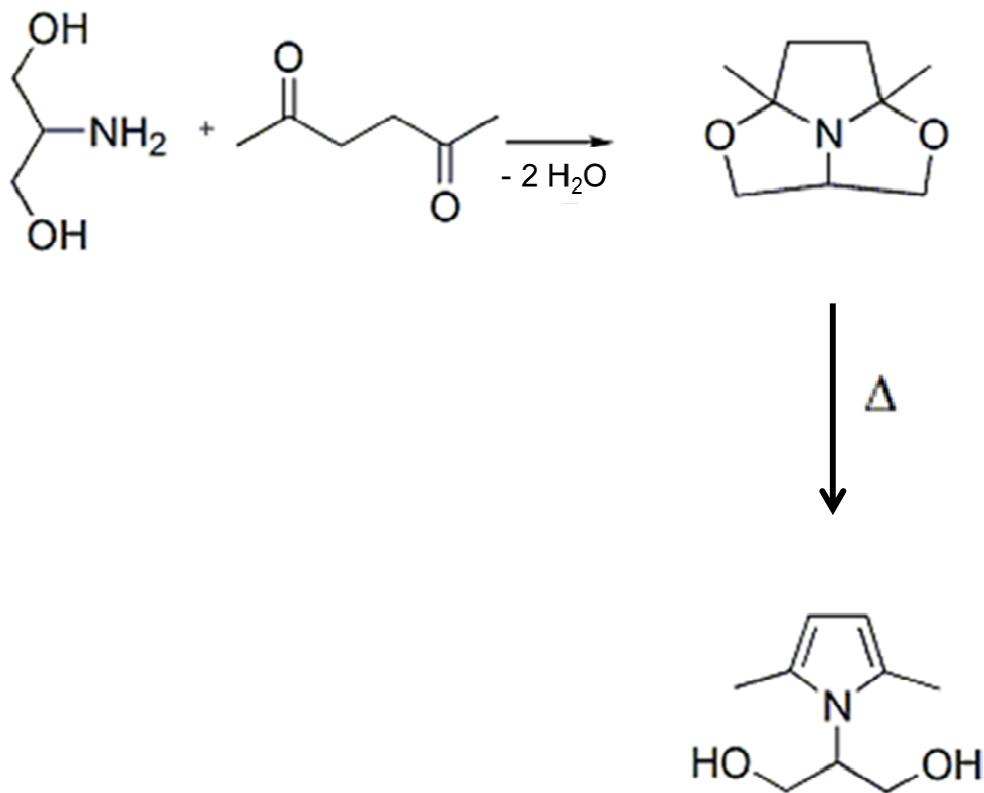
Oxazolidines

Reaction of serinol with dicarbonyl compound



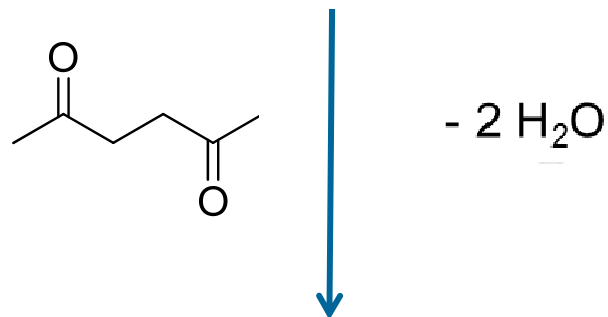
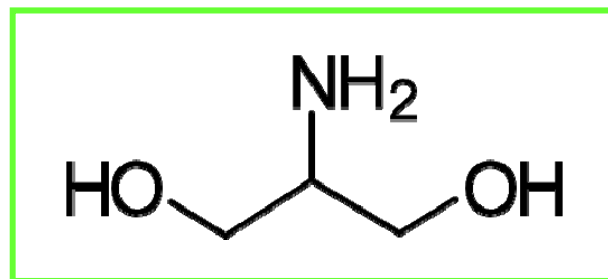
M. Galimberti, V. Barbera, A. Citterio, R. Sebastiano, A. Truscello, A. M. Valerio, L. Conzatti, R. Mendichi, *Polymer*, vol 63, 20 April 2015, Pages 62–70
M. Galimberti, V. Barbera, S. Guerra, L. Conzatti, C. Castiglioni, L. Brambilla, A. Serafini, *RSC Adv.*, 2015, 5, 81142-81152 DOI: 10.1039/C5RA11387C
V. Barbera, S. Musto, A. Citterio, L. Conzatti, M. Galimberti, *eXPRESS Polymer Letters* 2016, 10 (7) 548–558

Reaction of serinol with dicarbonyl compound



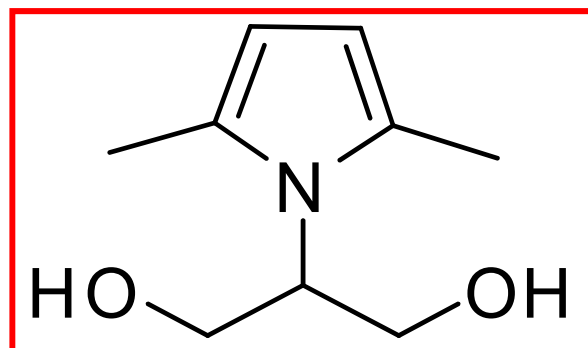
M. Galimberti, V. Barbera, A. Citterio, R. Sebastiano, A. Truscillo, A. M. Valerio, L. Conzatti, R. Mendichi, *Polymer*, vol 63, 20 April 2015, Pages 62–70
M. Galimberti, V. Barbera, S. Guerra, L. Conzatti, C. Castiglioni, L. Brambilla, A. Serafini, *RSC Adv.*, 2015, 5, 81142-81152 DOI: 10.1039/C5RA11387C
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Oxidation of CA with pyrrole derivative



- 2 H₂O

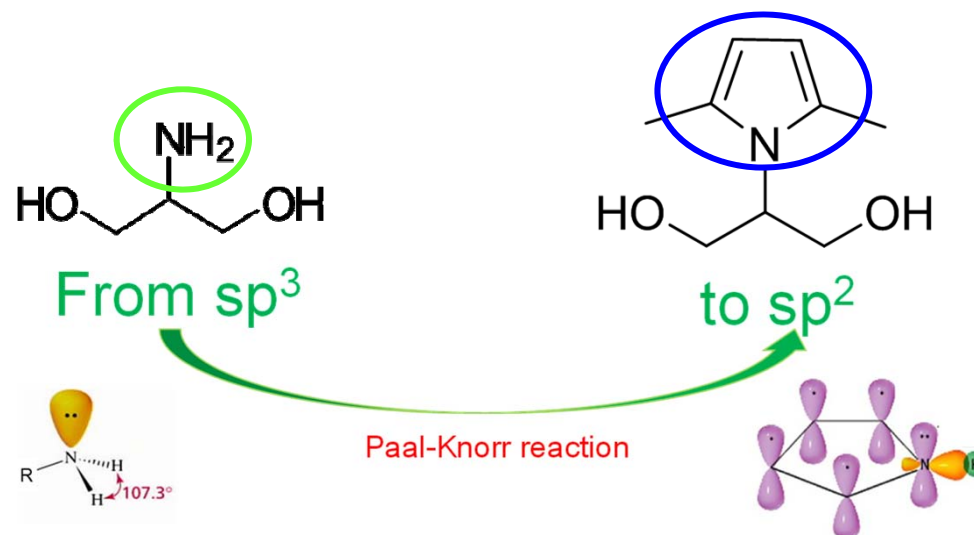
Paal Knorr reaction



Serinol pyrrole - SP

2-(2,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)-1,3-propanediol

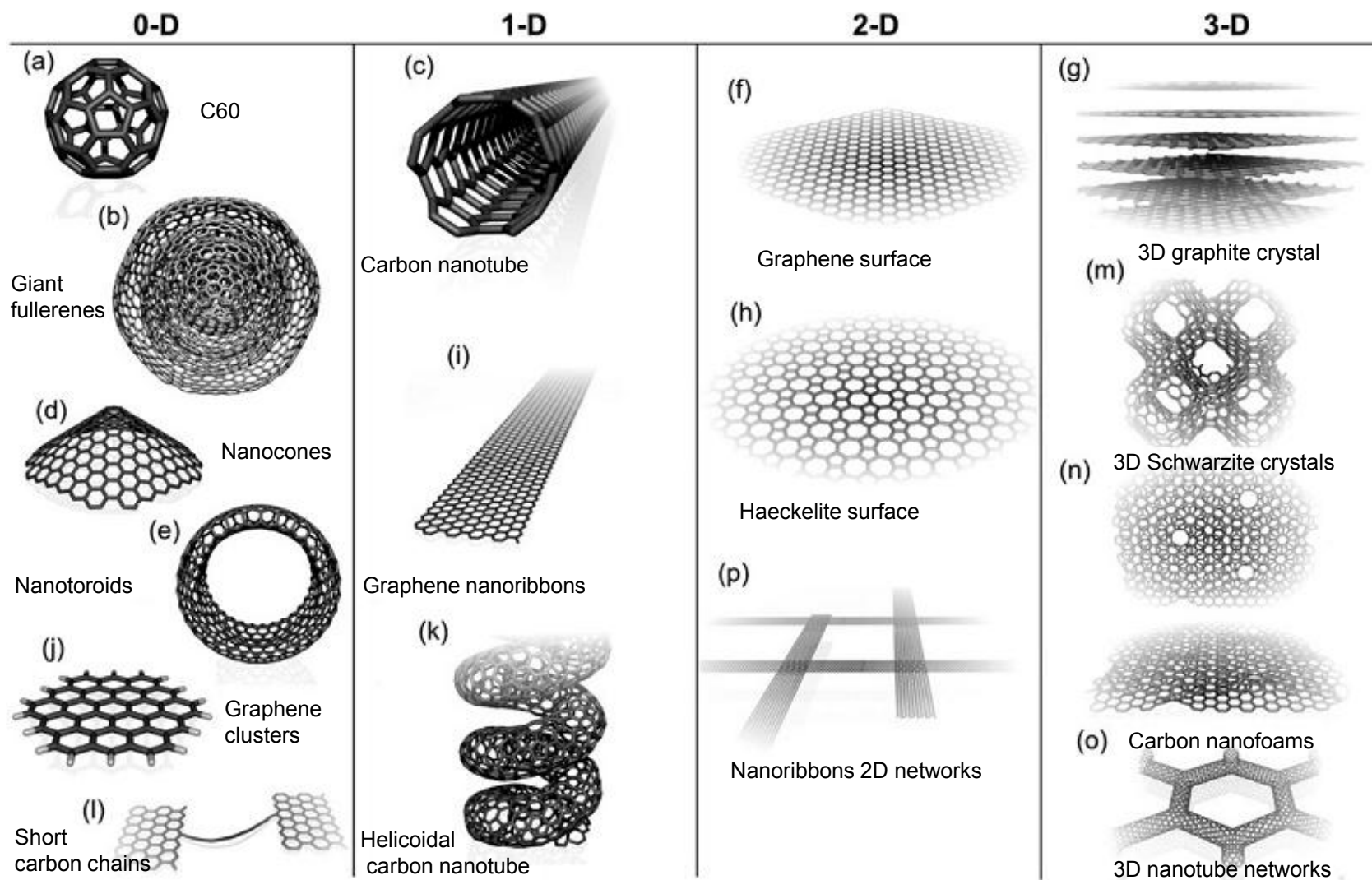
Neat synthesis of Serinol pyrrole



- Yield: at least 96%
- Atom efficiency: 85%
- Easy procedure
- No solvent
- By product: H_2O

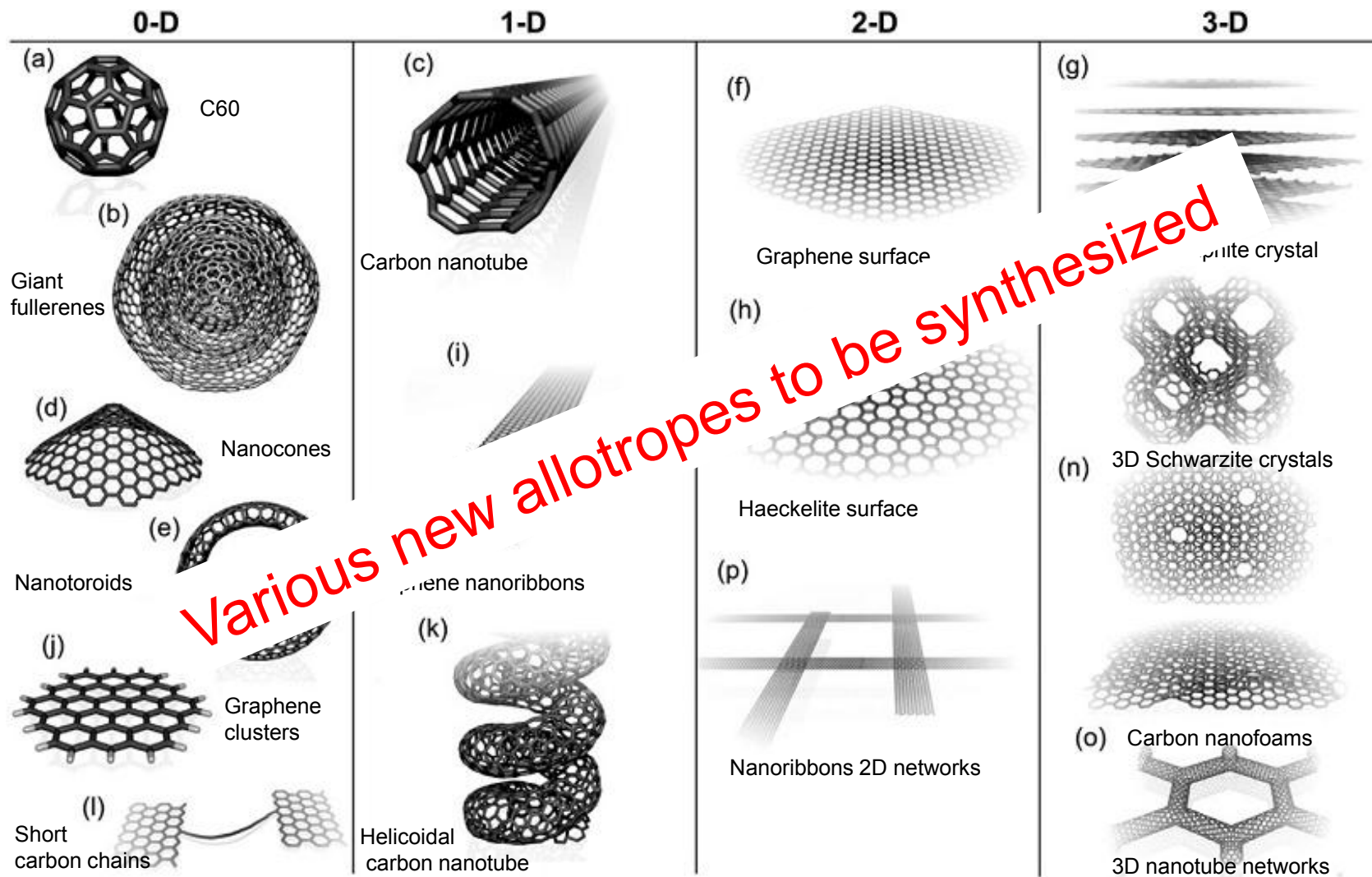
Barbera, V., Citterio, A., Galimberti, M., Leonardi, G., Sebastiano, R., Shisodia, S.U., Valerio A.M. [WO 2015 189411 A1](#)
Galimberti, M., Barbera, V., Guerra, S., Conzatti, L., Castiglioni, C., Brambilla, L., A. Serafini, [RSC Advances, 5\(99\), \(2015\) 81142-81152](#)

sp² carbon allotropes



M. Terrones, et al. Nano Today 5 (4) (2010) 351e372.

sp² carbon allotropes



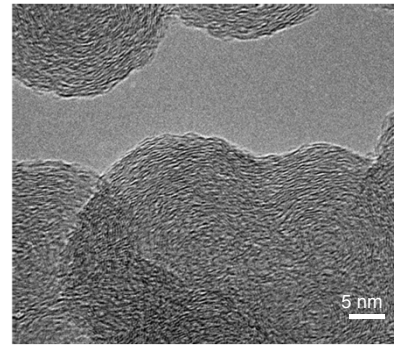
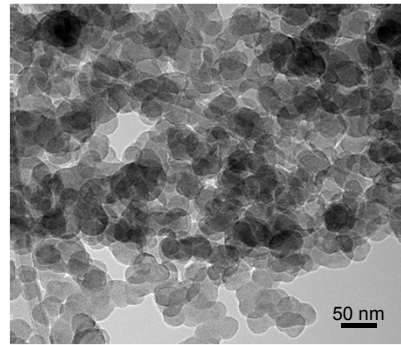
M. Terrones, et al. *Nano Today* 5 (4) (2010) 351e372.

Jin Zhang et al, *Carbon* 98 (2016) 708e732

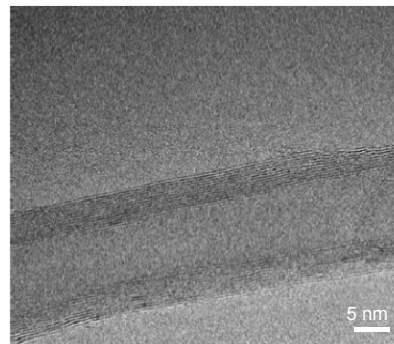
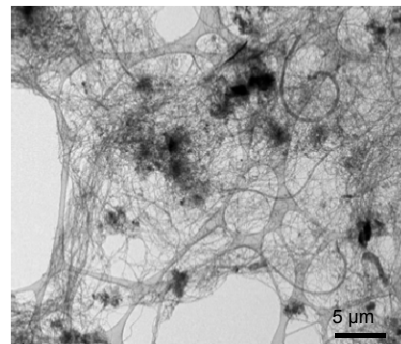
Carbon allotropes



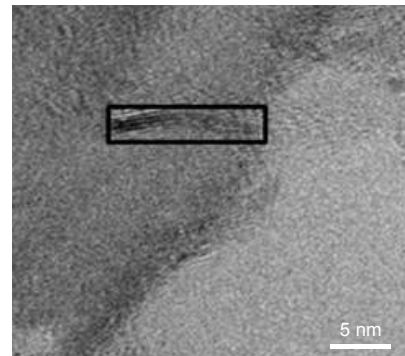
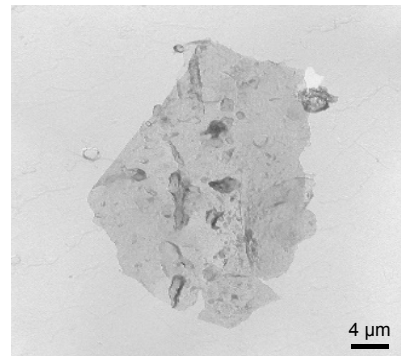
CB



CNT

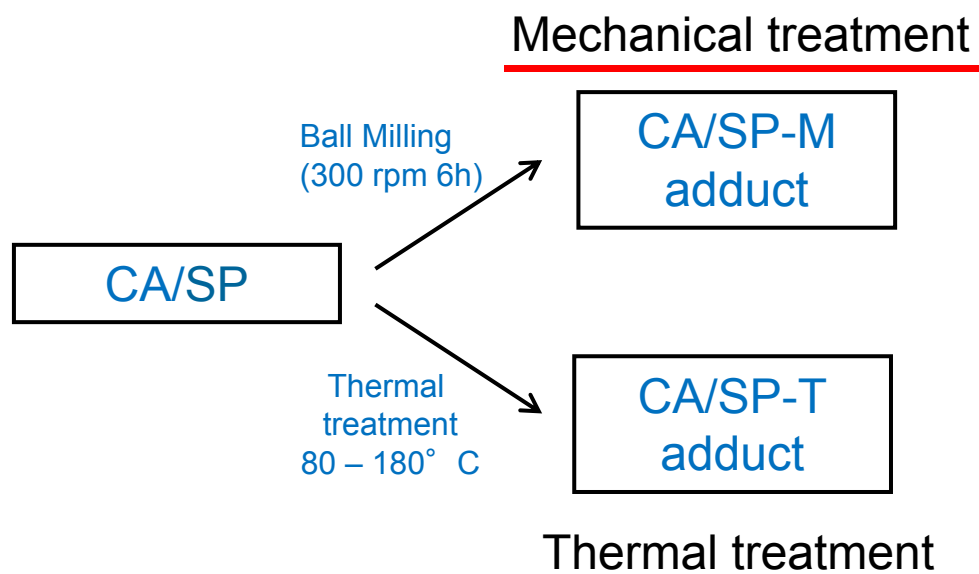
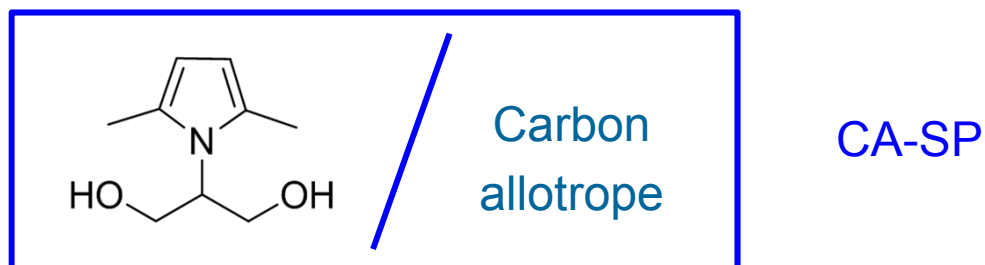


FLG



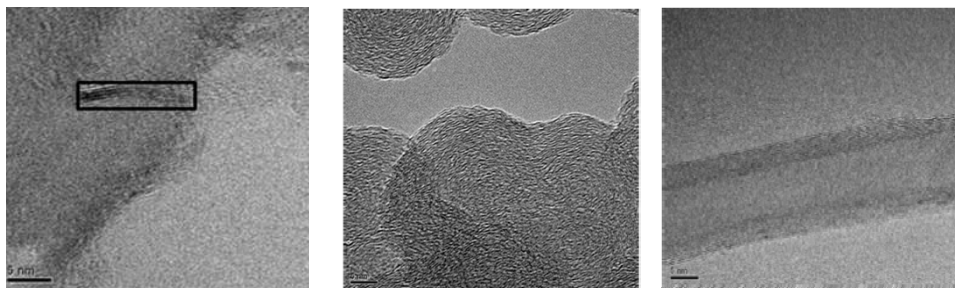
High-resolution
transmission electron microscopy
(HR-TEM)

Adducts of SP with CA - Preparation



Barbera, V., Citterio, A., Galimberti, M., Leonardi, G., Sebastiano, R., Shisodia, S.U., Valerio A.M. [WO 2015 189411 A1](#)
Galimberti, M., Barbera, V., Guerra, S., Conzatti, L., Castiglioni, C., Brambilla, L., A. Serafini, [RSC Advances, 5\(99\), \(2015\) 81142-81152](#)

High yield functionalization!

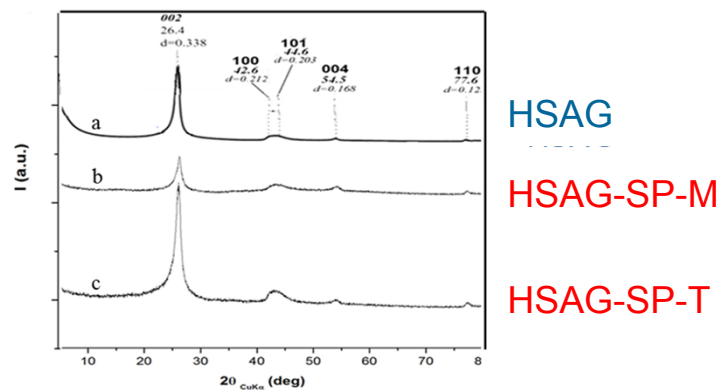
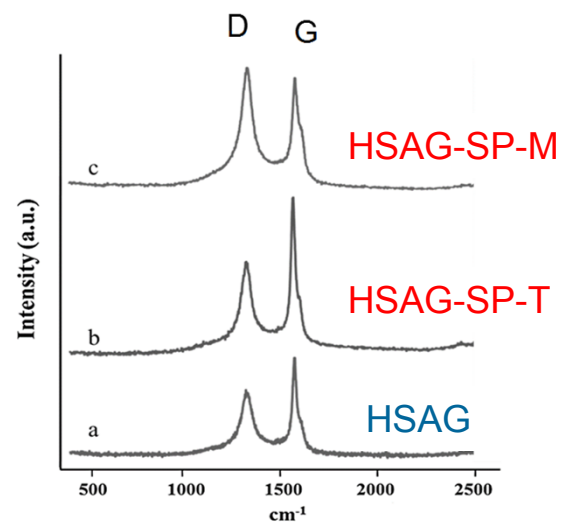


BET Surface area: [m ² /g]	300	77	275
Initial functional groups: [mmol/g]	1.7	0.9	2.0
Yields (%)* :	96	82	92

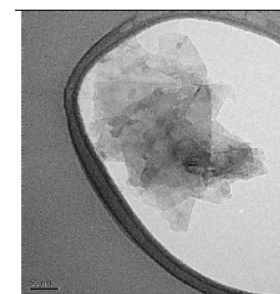
*was estimated through:

$$\text{Functionalization Yield (\%)} = 100 * \frac{\text{SP mass \% in (CA-SP adduct) after acetone washing}}{\text{SP mass \% in (CA-SP adduct) before acetone washing}}$$

Adducts of SP with HSAG



Few layers graphene



From water suspension

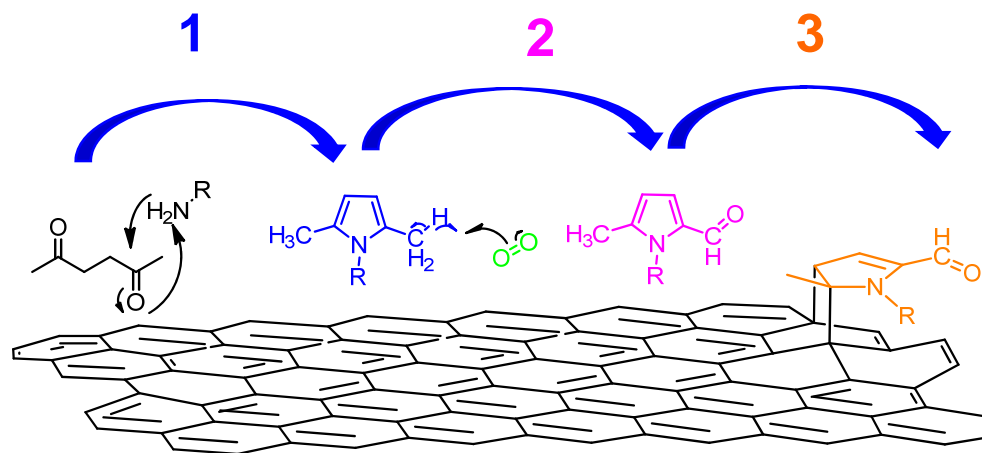
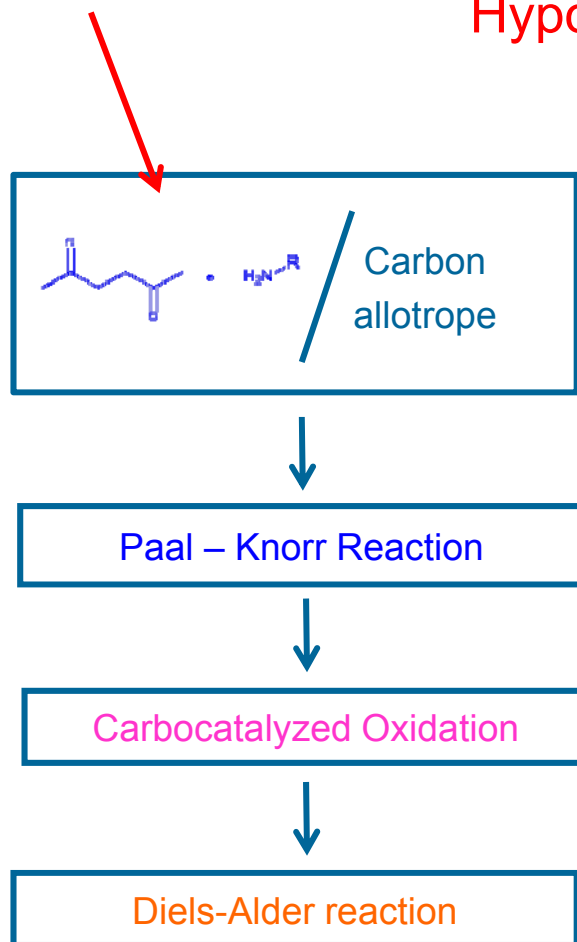
Results from elemental, TGA, IR, XPS, Raman, XRD, HRTEM analysis

Galimberti, M., Barbera, V., Sebastiano, R., Citterio, A., Leonardi, G. [WO/2016/050887 A1 \(2016\)](#)

Galimberti, M., Barbera, V., Guerra, S., Conzatti, L., Castiglioni, C., Brambilla, L., A. Serafini, [RSC Advances, 5\(99\), \(2015\) 81142-81152](#)

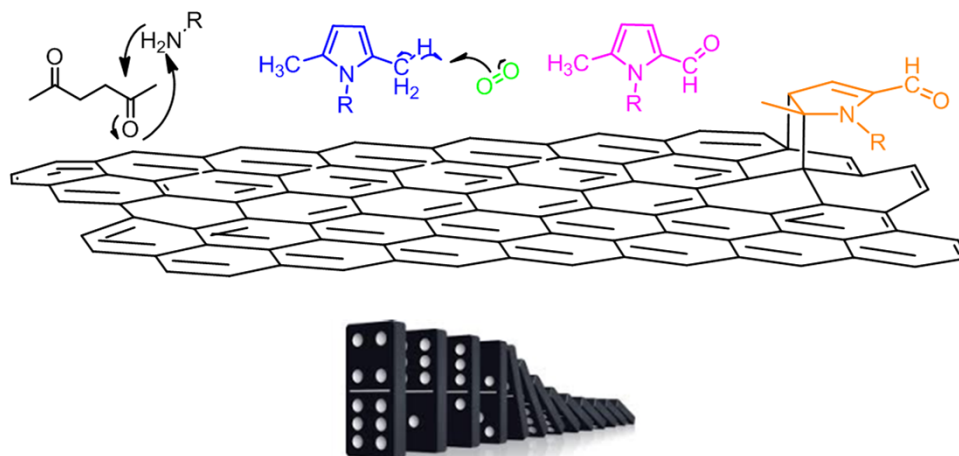
Facile functionalization of graphene layers (carbon materials)

Hypothesis for the mechanism



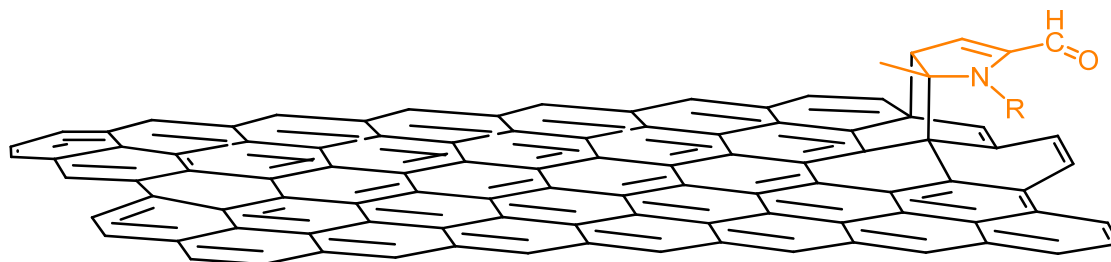
Thanks to the carbon allotrope!

- 👉 **Support:** absorption of pyrrole ring thanks to π - π interaction
- 👉 Oxidation **catalyst:** protection of pyrrole ring and oxidation of lateral substituent
- 👉 **Substrate** for the cycloaddition reaction, i.e. for functionalization

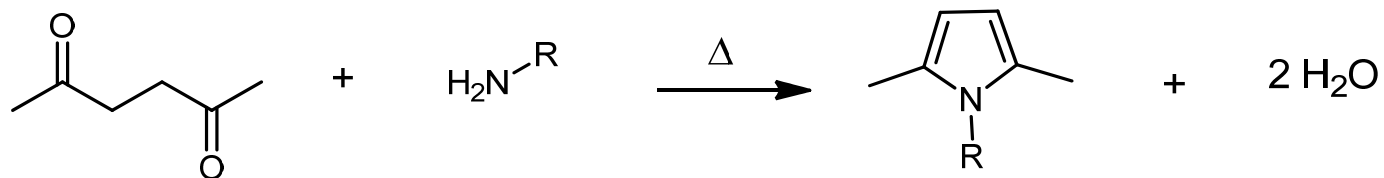


Adducts of SP with HSAG

- ➡ Functional groups up to 20%
- ➡ In plane order substantially unaltered
- ➡ No expansion of interlayer distance



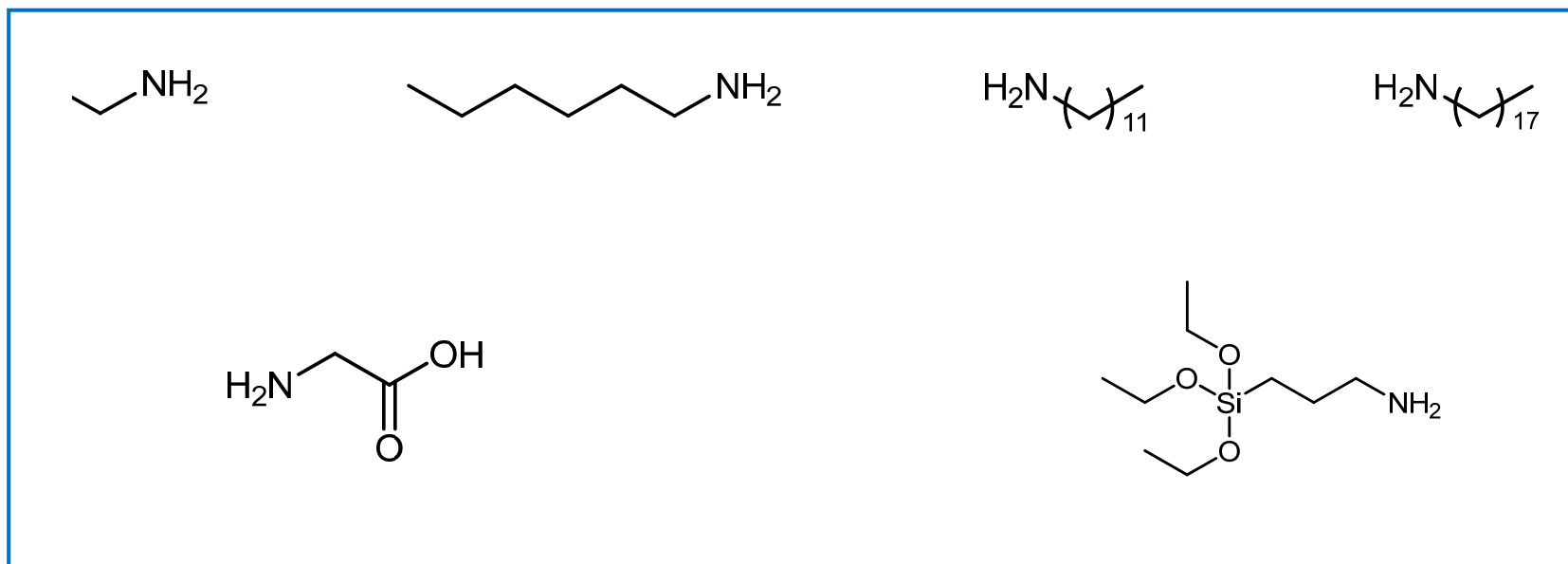
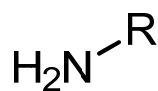
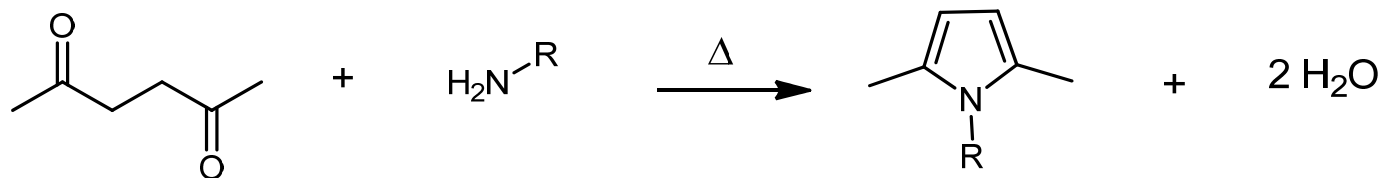
Pyrrole compounds from neat Paal Knorr reaction



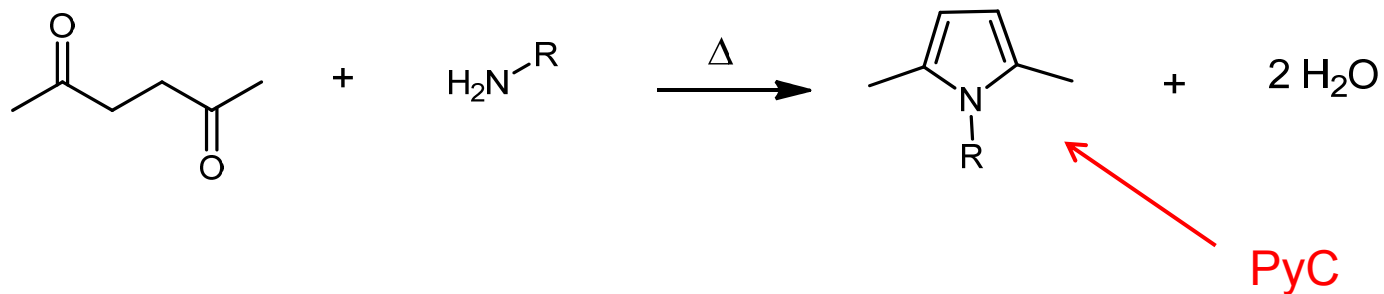
M. Galimberti, V. Barbera, S. Guerra, A. Bernardi, Facile functionalization of sp² carbon allotropes with a biobased Janus molecule. *Rubber Chemistry and Technology*, 2017, 90(2), 285-307.

V. Barbera, A. Bernardi, A. Palazzolo, A. Rosengart, L. Brambilla, M. Galimberti, Facile and sustainable functionalization of graphene layers with pyrrole compounds *Pure and Applied Chemistry*, 2017 | DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1515/pac-2017-0708>

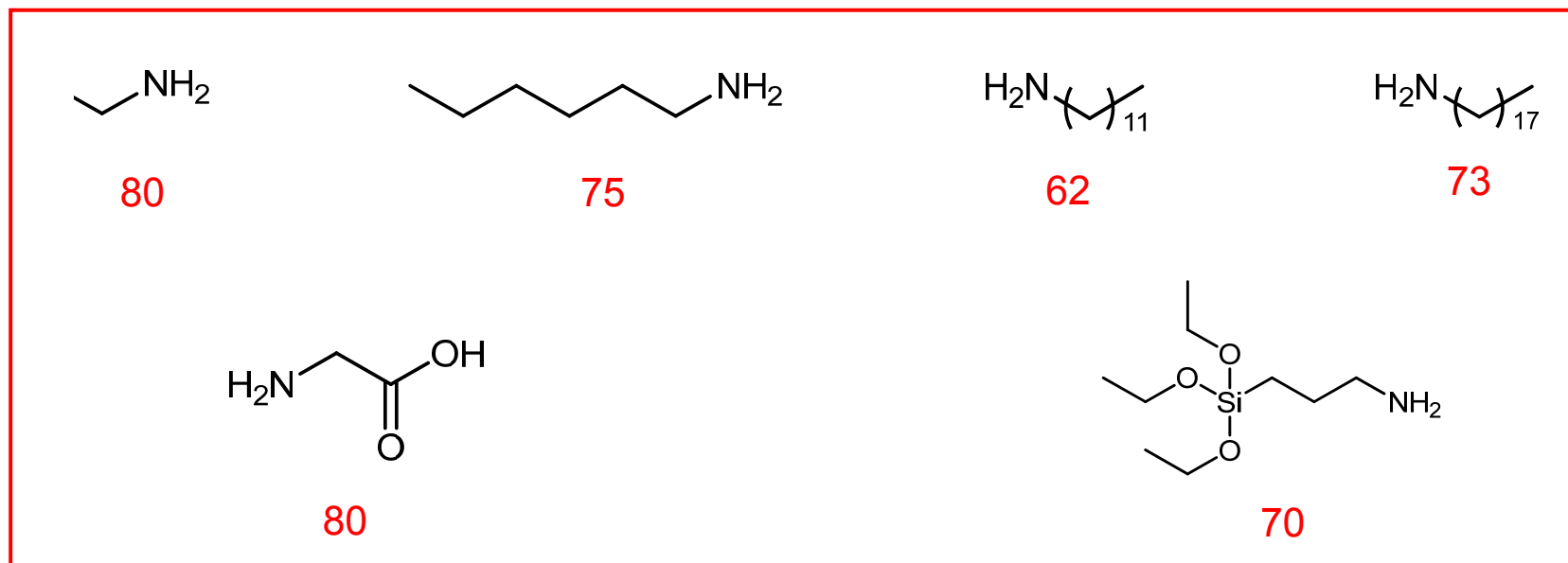
Pyrrole compounds from neat Paal Knorr reaction



Pyrrole compounds from neat Paal Knorr reaction



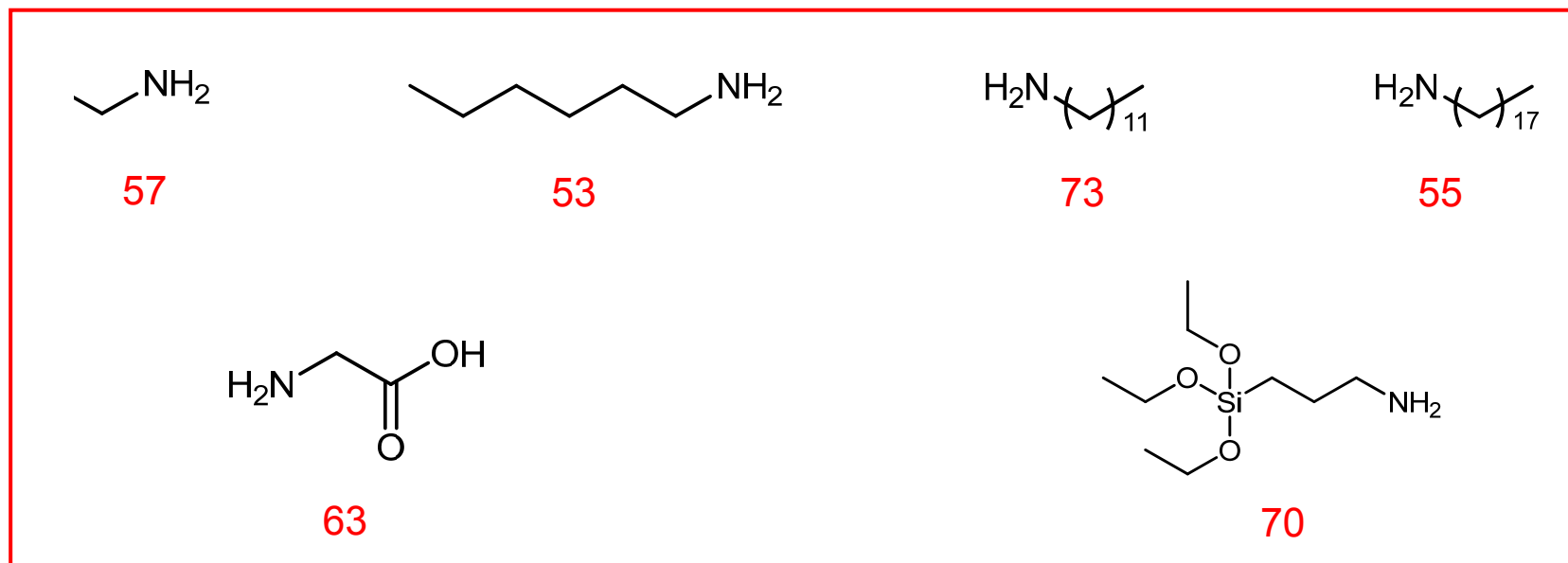
Yield %



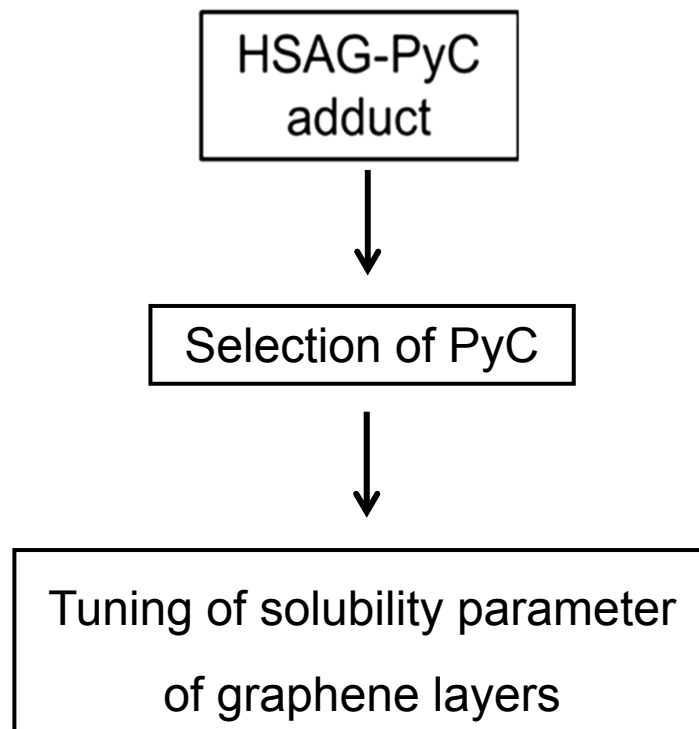
HSAG / PyC adducts



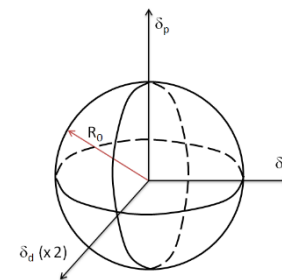
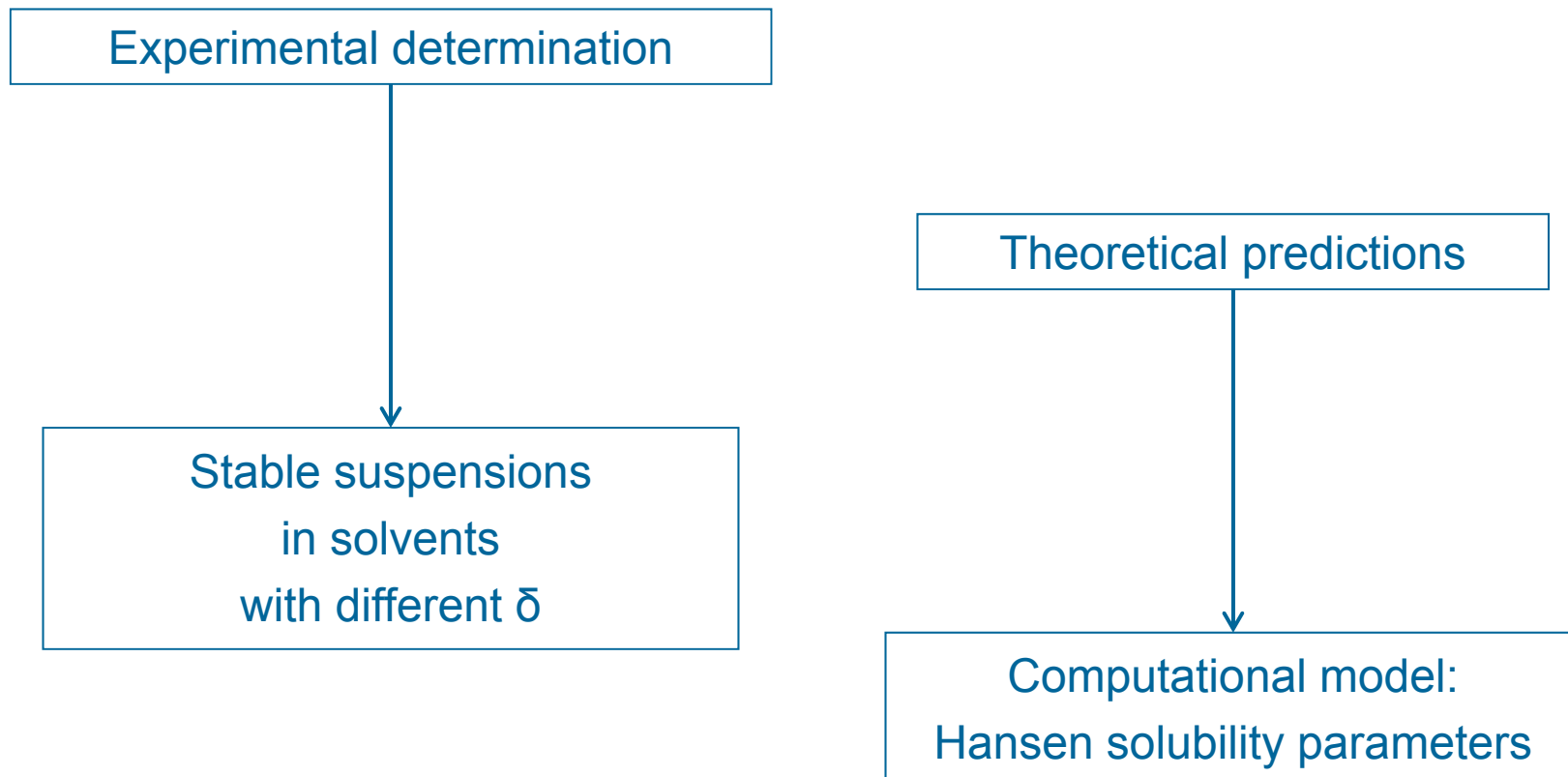
Functionalization Yield %



Tuning of solubility parameter of graphene layers



HSAG / PyC adducts - Tuning of solubility parameters



Determination of solubility parameters of HSAG-PyC - Experiments

Adduct	solvents				
	water	isopropanol	ethyl acetate	toluene	heptane
HSAG-TMP	bad (↓)	good	good	good	good
HSAG-HP	bad (↑)	bad (↓)	good	bad (↓)	good
HSAG-DDcP	bad (↑)	good	good	bad (↓)	bad (↓)
HSAG-SP	good	good	good	bad (↓)	bad (↓)
HSAG-Gly	bad (↓)	good	good	good	bad (↓)
HSAG-APTESP	bad (↑)	bad (↓)	bad (↓)	good	good



No suspension:
bad



Unstable suspension:
bad

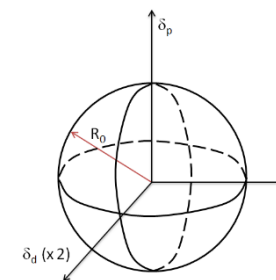


Stable suspension:
good

Calculation of solubility parameters of HSAG / PyC adducts

By applying the Hansen Solubility Sphere representation of miscibility

Cohesive energy (Hildebrand model) of a substance:
sum of three contributions:
dispersion, polar, hydrogen bonding:
 U_D, U_P, U_H



The substance is identified by three coordinates (δ_D, δ_P and δ_H)
in the Hansen Parameters space

The distance between two points (e.g. of a solute and a solvent)
is related to the cohesive energy difference

Two points close to each other in the Hansen space
indicate miscible substances

Estimation of HSP of a solute i

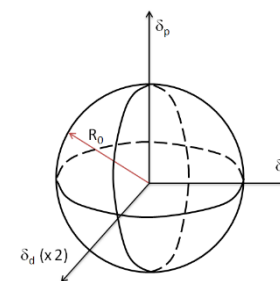
Dispersion tests are performed with different solvents j , distinguishing:

- good solvents, which provide stable solutions/dispersions
- bad solvents, which do not give stable dispersions.

Minimization of the ratio * $\frac{\text{Distance between the solute and the solvent}}{R_0 \text{ radius of interaction}}$

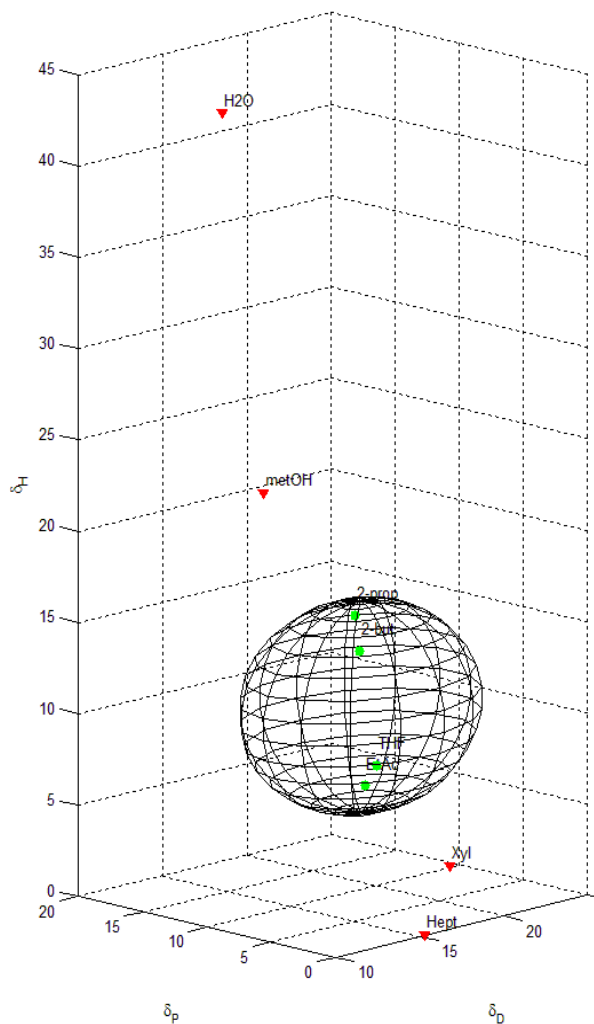
Calculation of the center coordinates of the Hansen solubility sphere

The sphere center coordinates correspond to the three unknown HSP of the solute



* Fitting sphere program adapted from *J. Polym. Sci. Part B Polym. Phys* **47**(21), 2091 (2009) and solved in Matlab environment using the Nelder-Mead simplex algorithm.

Hansen solubility sphere calculated for HSAG-DDcP



Calculated HSP (MPa^{0.5})

δ_D 16.5

δ_P 6.6

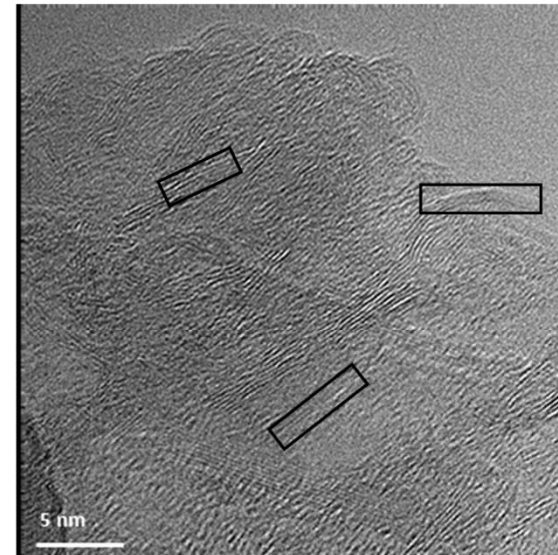
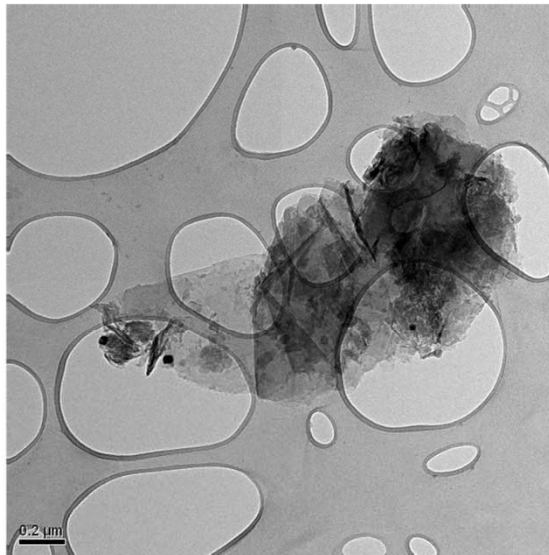
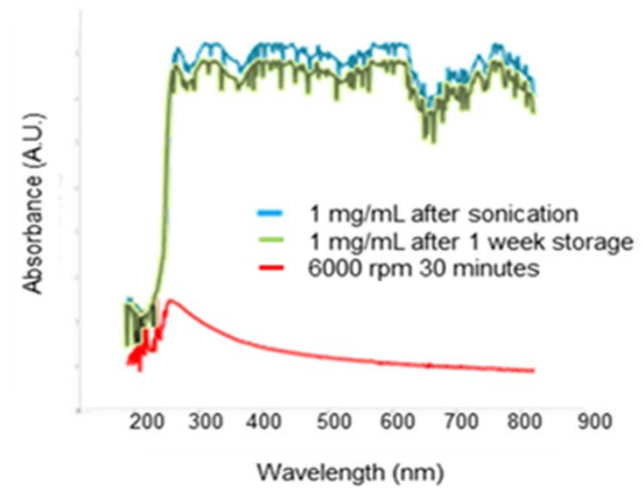
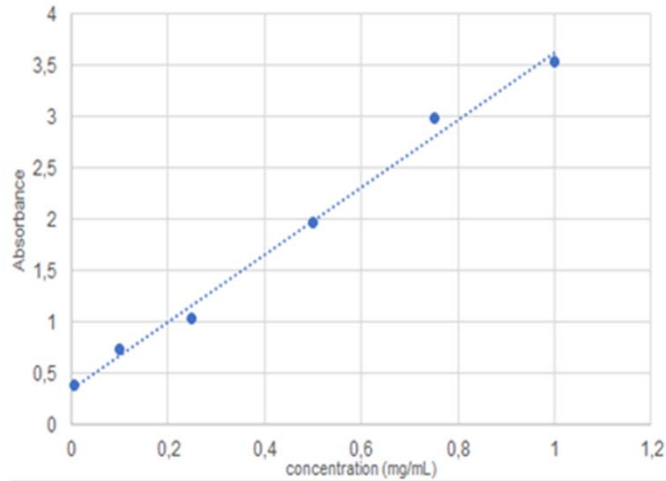
δ_H 11.2

green circles: good solvents

red triangles: bad solvents

Ultimate dispersions and few layers graphene

By tuning the solubility parameter of graphene layers



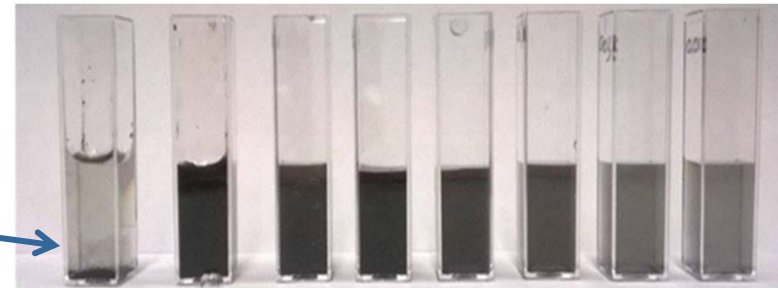
2-3 stacked layers

Graphene inks and varnishes



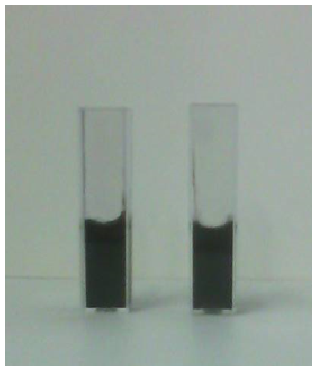
TEM micrograph

without
NanoCarbon Up



Conc (g/L): 10 5.0 2.5 1.0 0.50 0.25 0.10

freshly
prepared



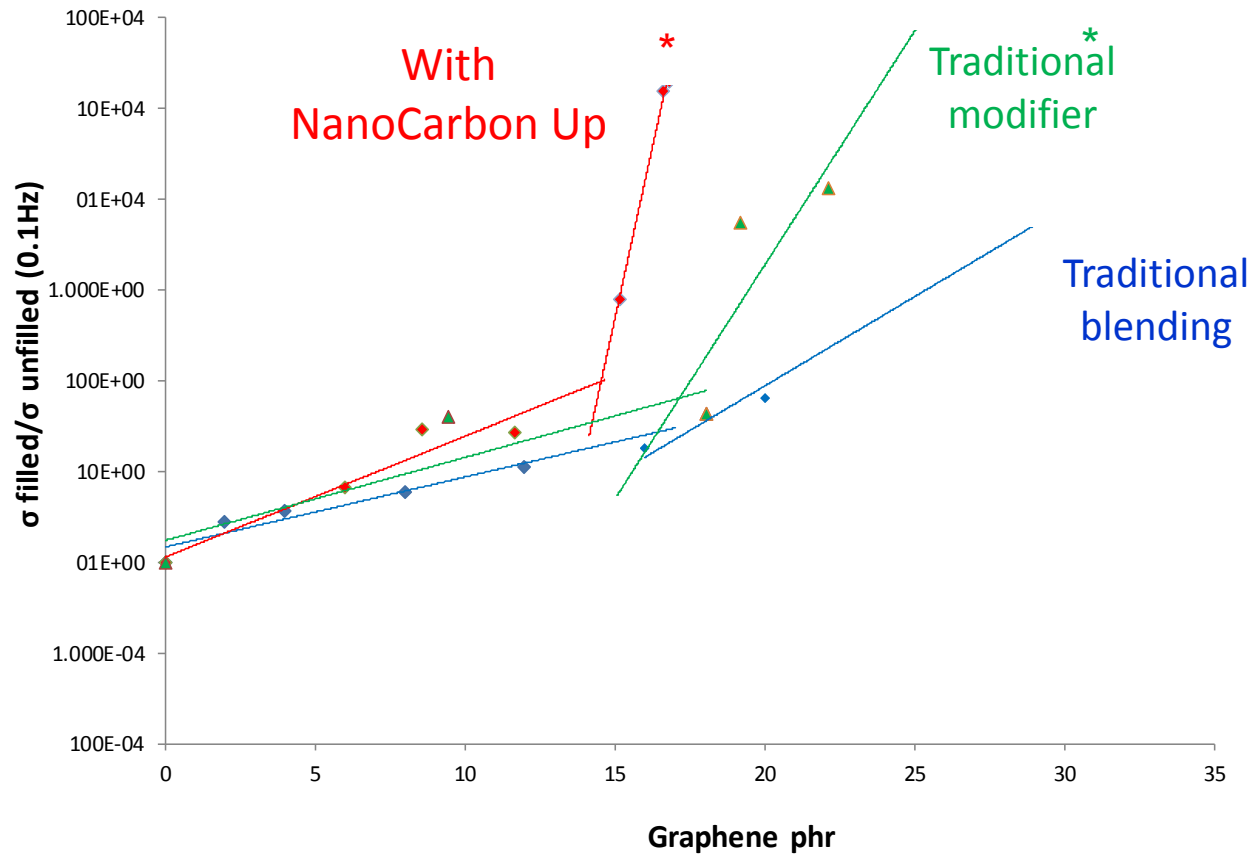
after 30 min
centrifugation
at 2000 rpm

Large scale
preparation



Conc (g/L): 10 g/L, 30 g/L, 200 g/L.

Graphene based polymer composites

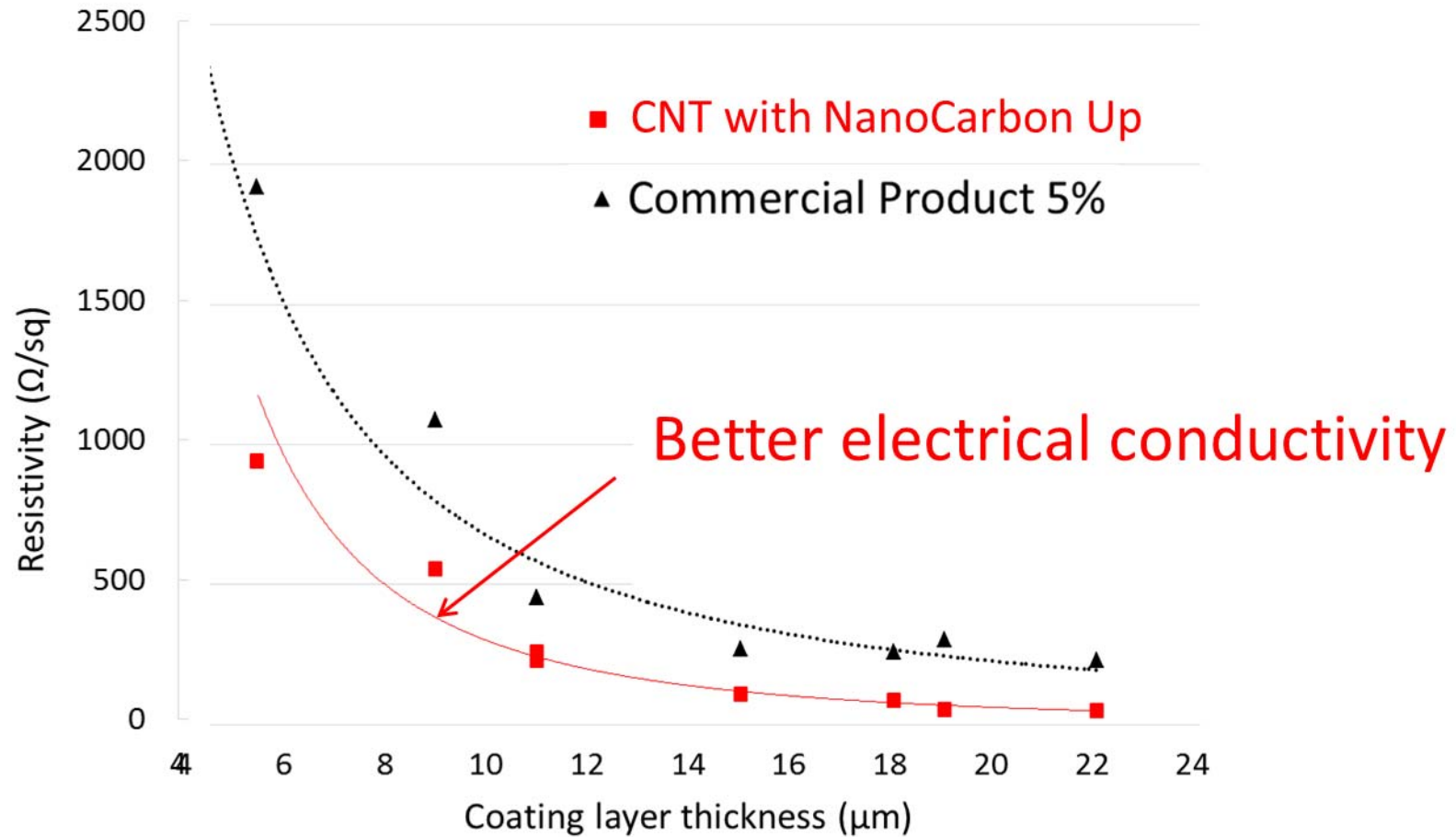


Polymer = NR

* From NR latex dispersion

👉 Better electrical conductivity

CNT inks and varnishes



Polyurethanes with better mechanical and barrier properties



Large scale preparation

2% by mass
in polyol

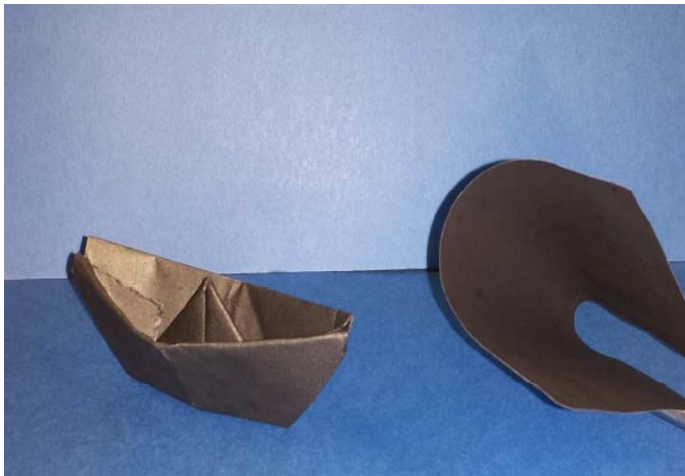


Without
carbon material

With
carbon material

With
Nanocarbon Up

Graphene based bio-nanocomposites



Carbon
papers



Monolithic
aerogel

👉 Mechanical properties, electrical conductivity

NaoCarbon Up Technology



V. Barbera, A. Citterio, M. Galimberti, G. Leonardi, R. Sebastiano, S.U. Shisodia, A.M. Valerio.
[WO/2015/189411 A1 \(2015\)](#)

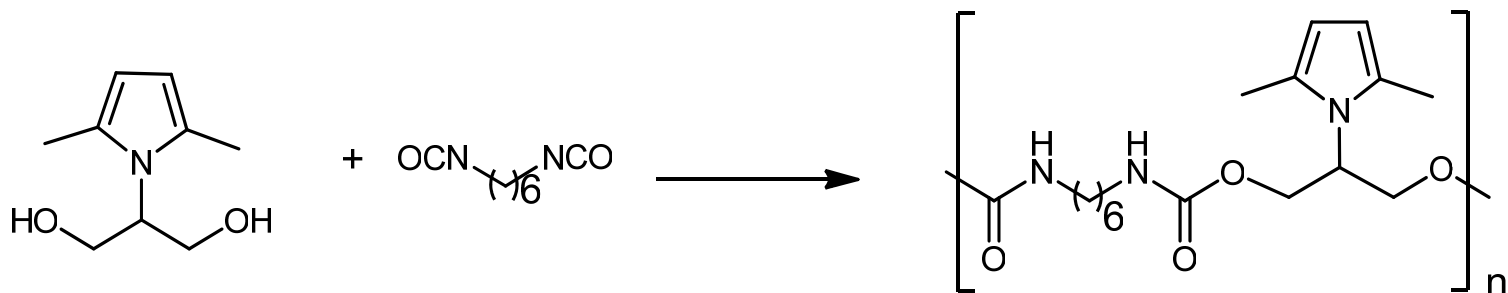
M. Galimberti, V. Barbera, R. Sebastiano, A. Citterio, G. Leonardi, A.M. Valerio.
[WO/2016/050887 A1 \(2016\)](#)

M. Galimberti, V. Barbera, R. Sebastiano, A. Truscillo, A.M. Valerio.
[WO/2016/023915 A1 \(2016\)](#)

M. Galimberti, V. Barbera,
[Italian Patent 102016000113012 \(2016\)](#)

M. Galimberti, V. Barbera,
[Italian Patent 102016000113070 \(2016\)](#)

Polyurethane from SP and hexamethylenediisocyanate (HMMDI)



Temperature: 90°C

time (min): 60 – 120

Without solvent

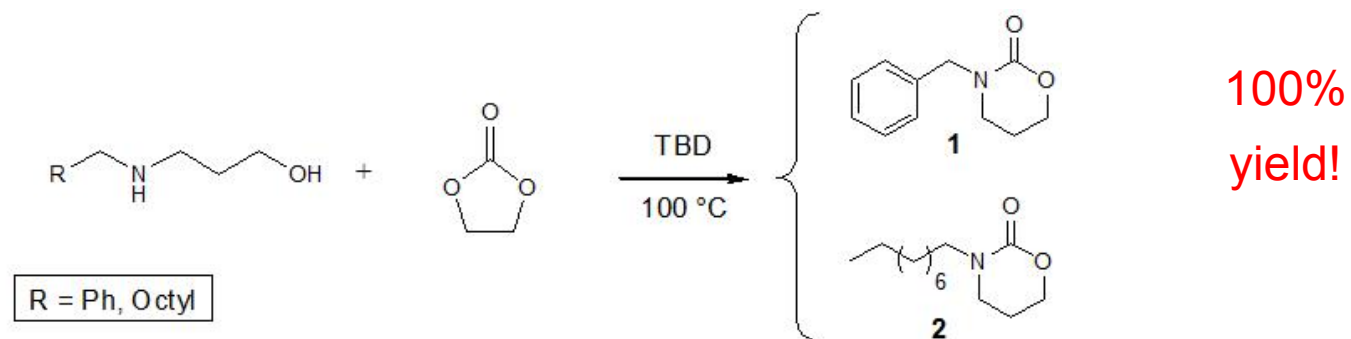
M_n (g/mol) = 1450 - 2400

Polymer, (2015) 63 62–70

WO 2016 023915 A1

Synthesis of 1,3-oxazin-2-ones 1-4 via DAC chemistry

Substituted 1,3-amino-alcohols + ethylene carbonate + a bicyclic nitrogen base



Base: 1,5,7-triazabicyclo[4.4.0]dec-5-ene (TBD)



Atom efficiency: 100%

No toxic reagents

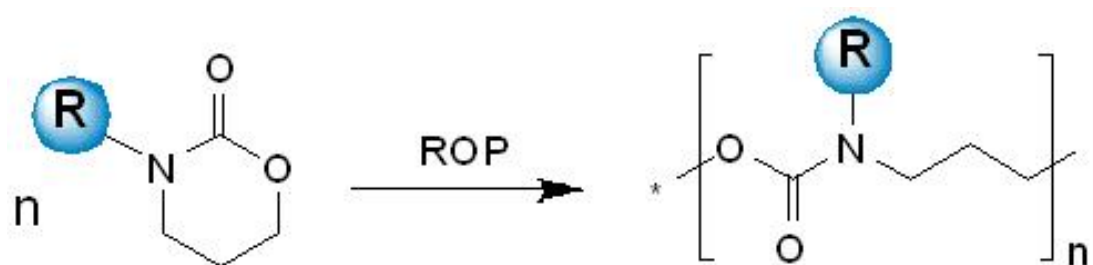
Easily available starting materials

Pretty simple reaction procedures

Minimal work up



Long lived ring opening polymerizations to poly(trimethylene urethanes)



R = octyl, benzyl, phenylamino

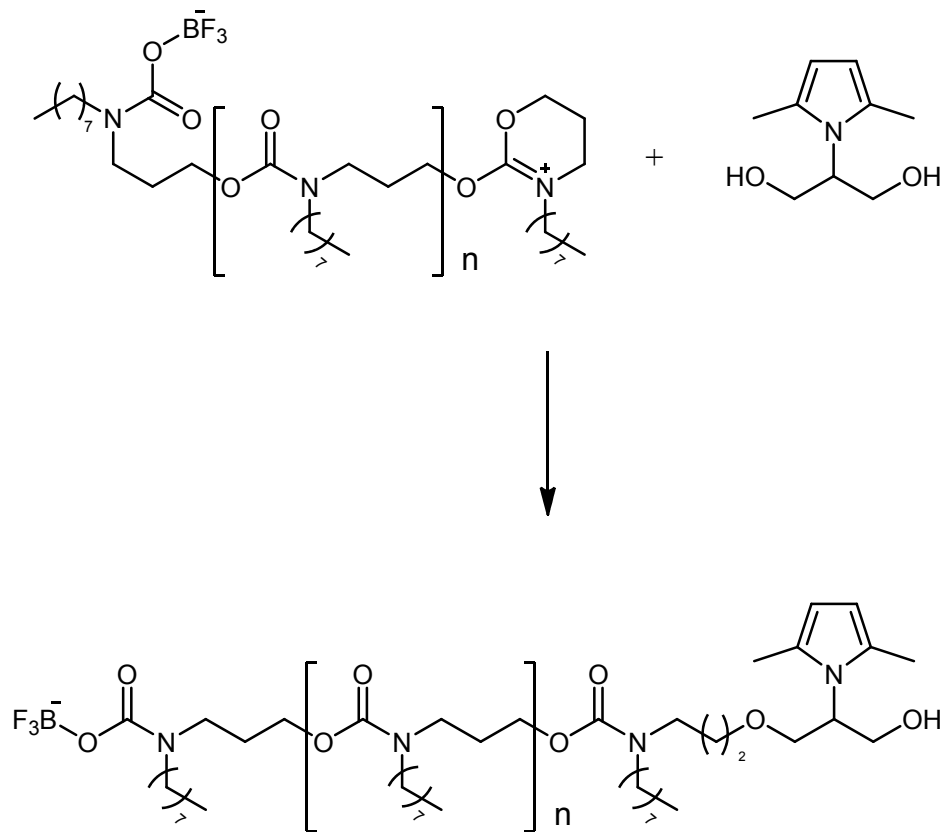
Cat: $\text{BF}_3\text{O}(\text{Et})_2$ Monomer / Cat = 1 / 0.015

Temperature: 25 – 110°C

Time 12 hours

Without solvent

Polyurethanes from cationic ROP of 6-membered cyclic carbamates + SP





Adducts of PU and PU-SP with Carbon Nanotubes (CNT)



CNT + Acetone + PU

1 mg/mL

PU/CNT = 0.10 mass



Sonication
15'



CNT + Acetone + PU-SP

1 mg/mL

PU/CNT = 0.10 mass



Sonication
15'

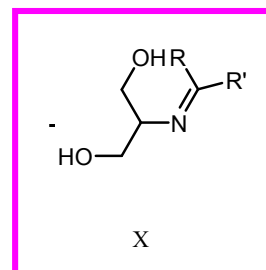




Sulphur based crosslinking of rubbers

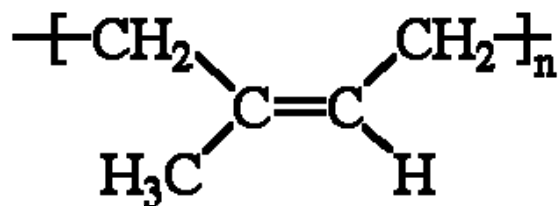
Reaction of serinol with carbonyl compounds.

With steric hindrance
and aromatic substituents

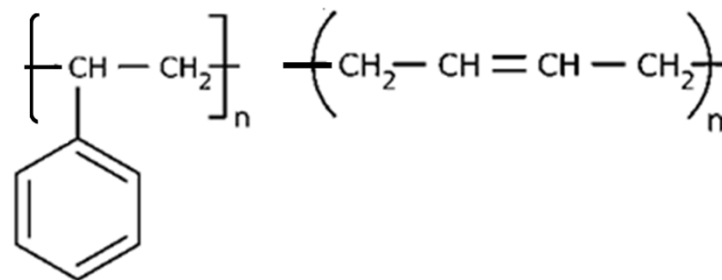


Imines

Rubbers



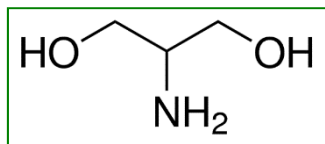
Poly(1,4-cis-isoprene)



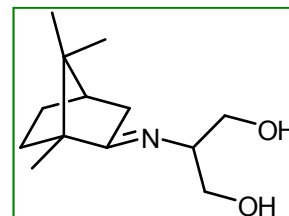
Poly(styrene-co-butadiene)



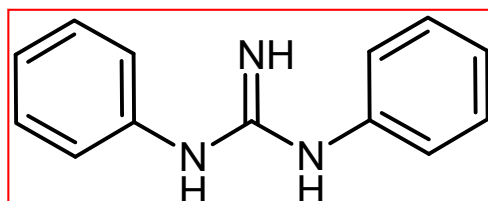
Serinol and serinol derivatives for rubber compounds



Serinol



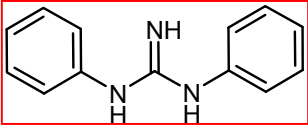
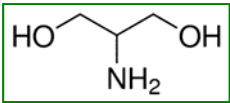
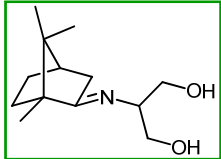
Serinol camphor
imine



DPG

Serinol and serinol derivatives as secondary accelerators in silica based compounds

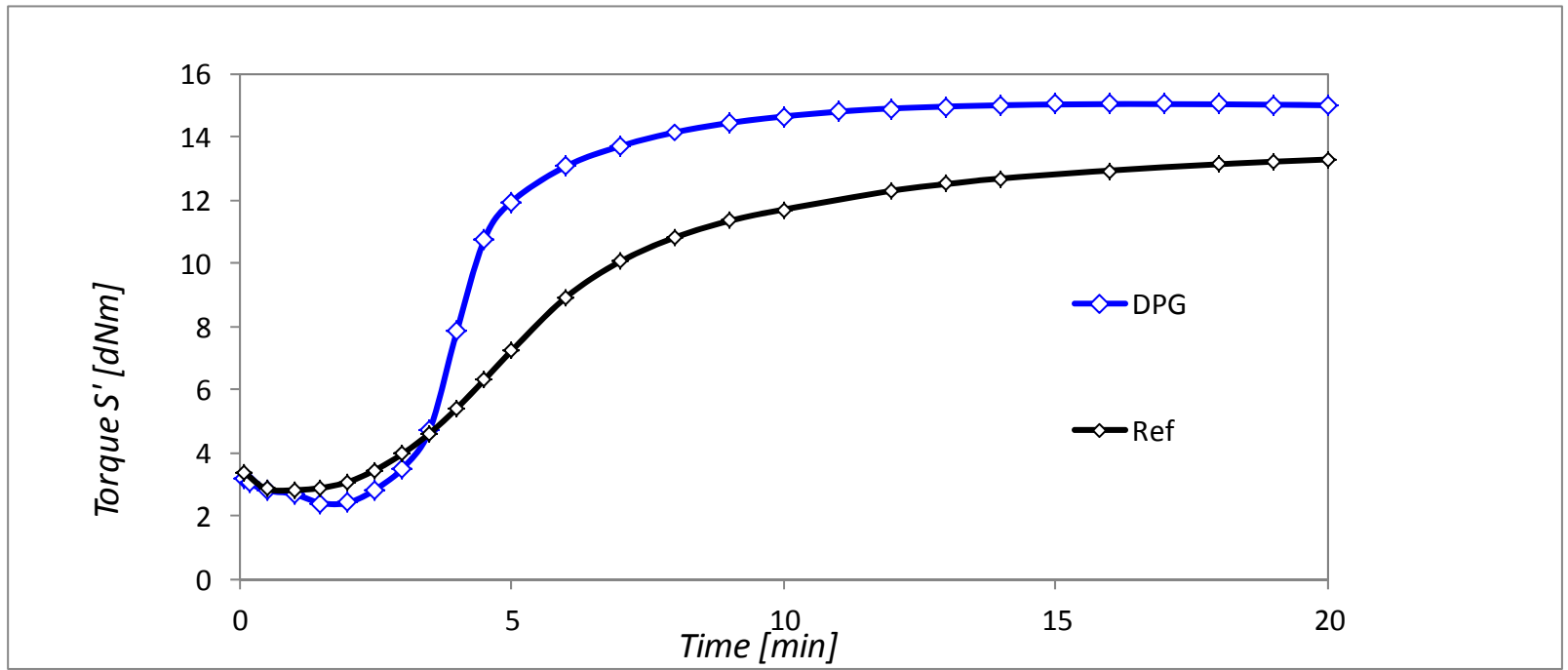
Ingredient	phr
S-SBR	96.3
NR	15
BR	15
Silica	65
Silane TESPT Si69	5.6
Oil MES	10
Stearic Acid	2
ZnO	2.5
6PPD	2
Sulphur	1.8
TBBS	1.2
Secondary accelerator	X

Secondary accelerator	X phr
 <i>or</i>  <i>or</i> 	 2.4 0.83 2.04

Secondary accelerators were used in equal molar amount

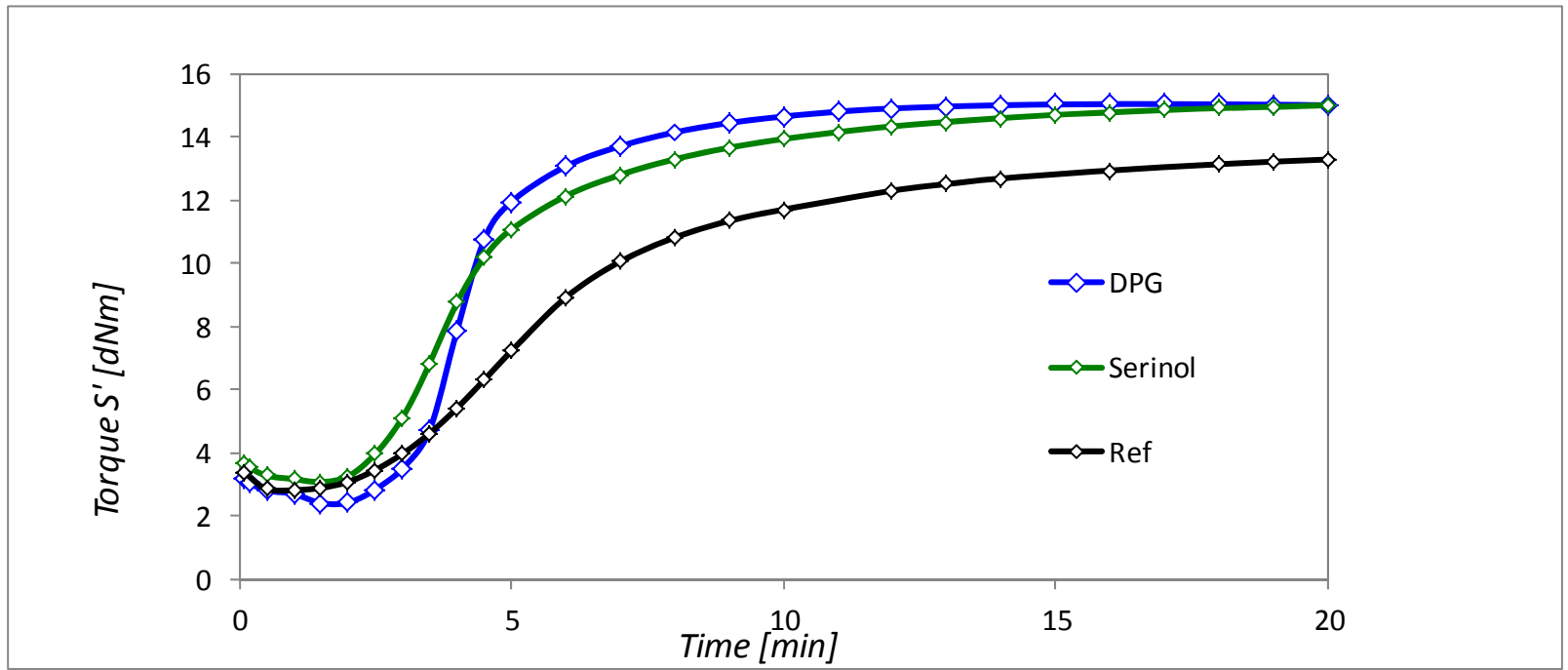


Curing at 170°C



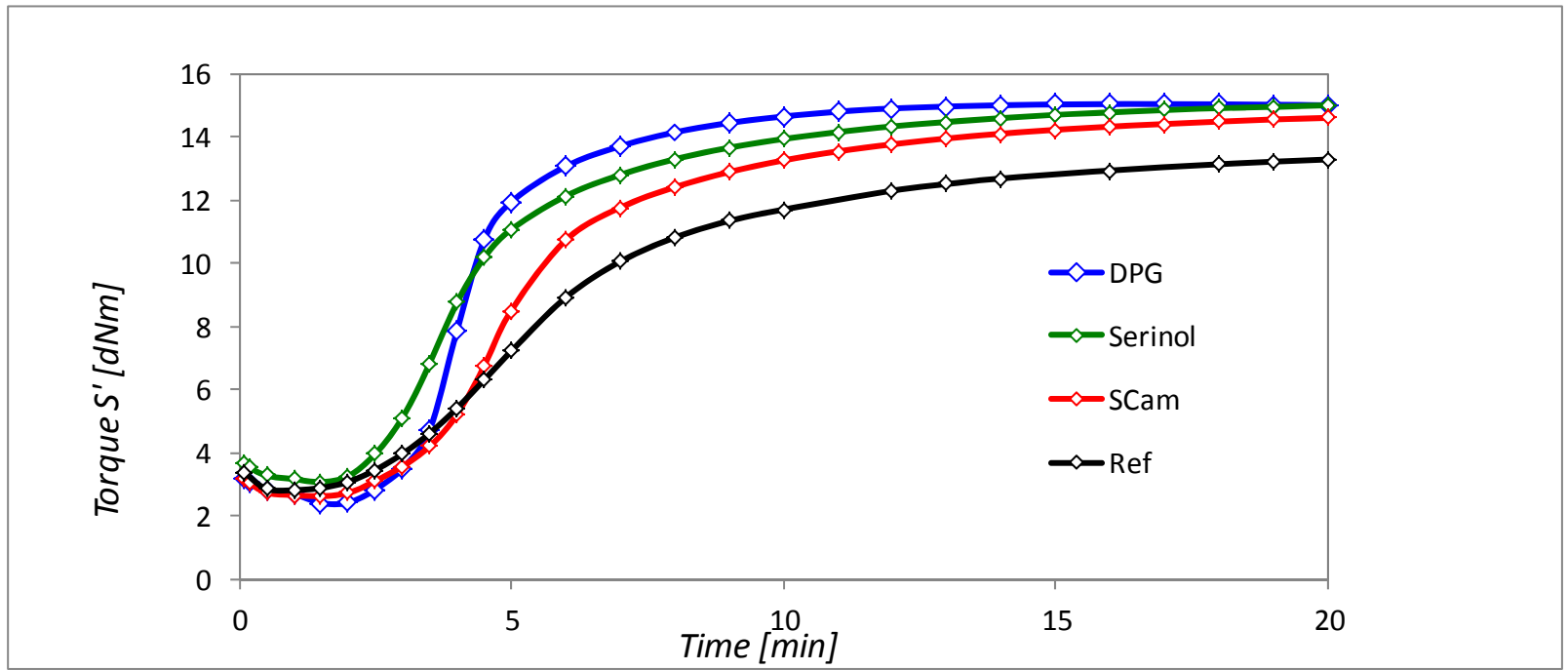
<u>Secondary accelerator</u>		=	DPG
<u>Parameter</u>			
M_L	[dNm]	2.8	2.3
M_H	[dNm]	13.3	15.1
t_{s1}	[min]	2.8	2.9
t_{90}	[min]	11.5	7.1

Curing at 170°C



<u>Secondary accelerator</u>		=	DPG	Serinol
<u>Parameter</u>				
M_L	[dNm]	2.8	2.3	3.1
M_H	[dNm]	13.3	15.1	15.0
t_{s1}	[min]	2.8	2.9	2.6
t_{90}	[min]	11.5	7.1	9.5

Curing at 170°C



<u>Secondary accelerator</u>		=	DPG	Serinol	SCam
<u>Parameter</u>					
M_L	[dNm]	2.8	2.3	3.1	2.6
M_H	[dNm]	13.3	15.1	15.0	14.6
t_{s1}	[min]	2.8	2.9	2.6	3.0
t_{90}	[min]	11.5	7.1	9.5	10.5



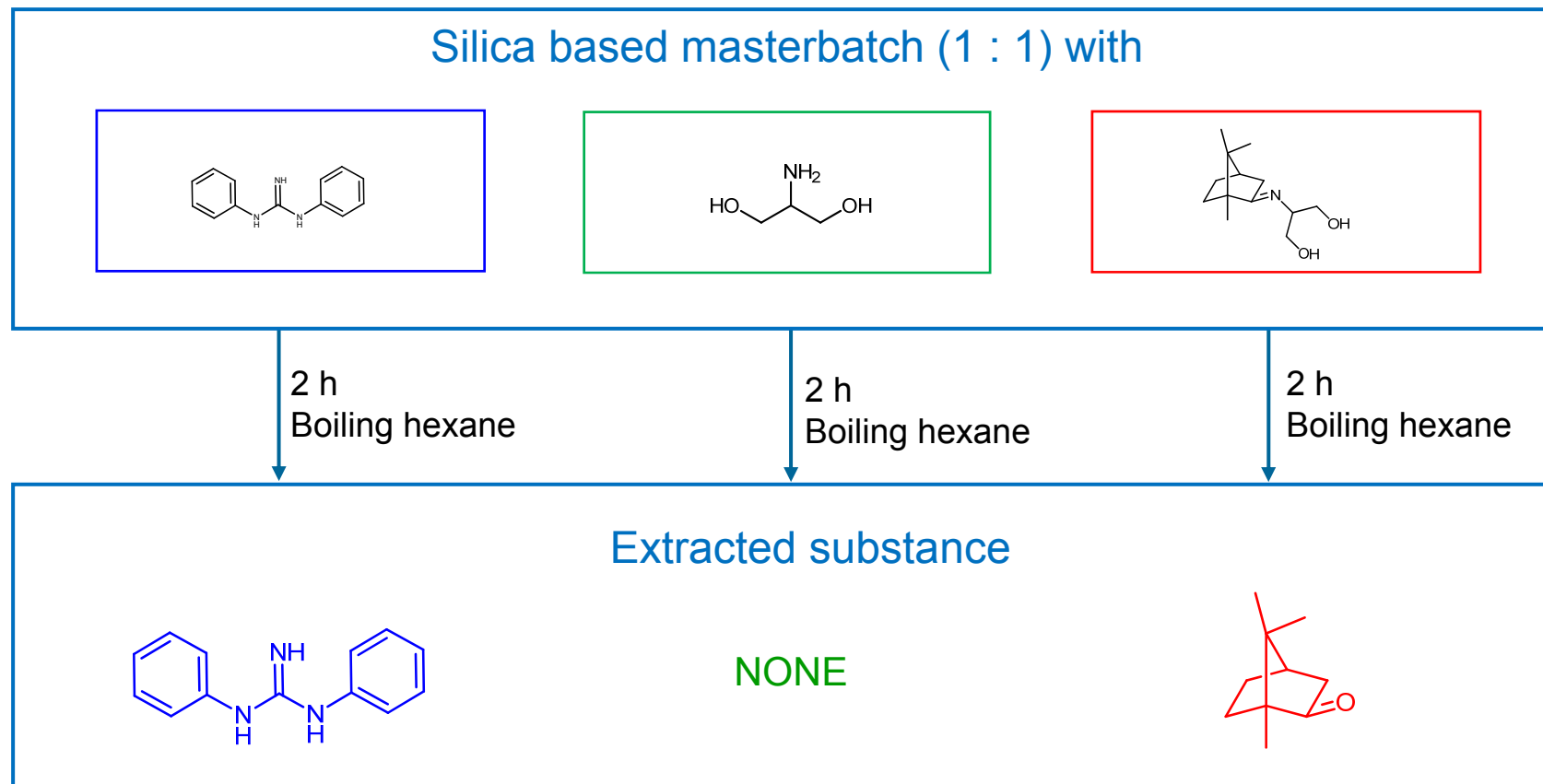
Scorch time at 130°C



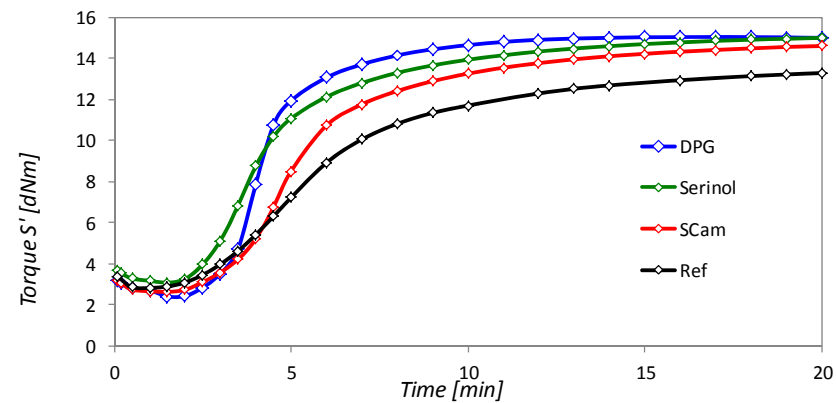
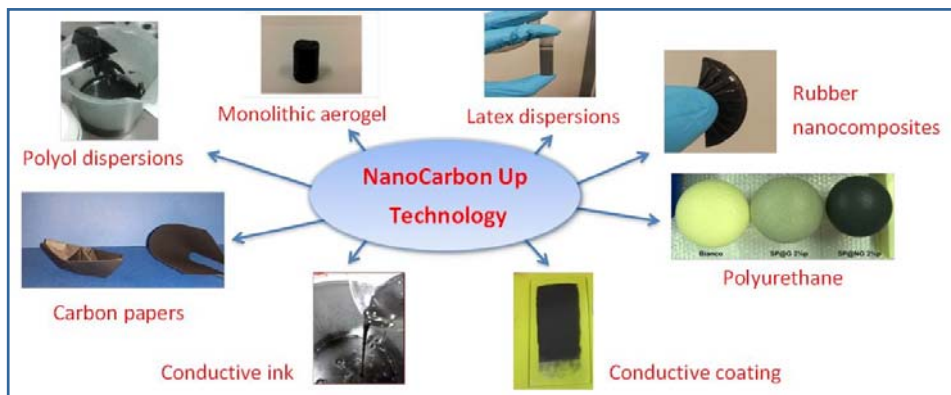
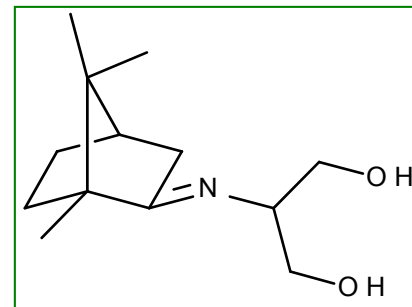
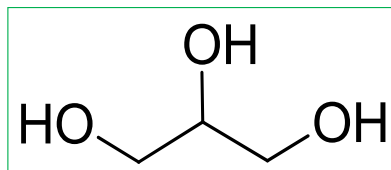
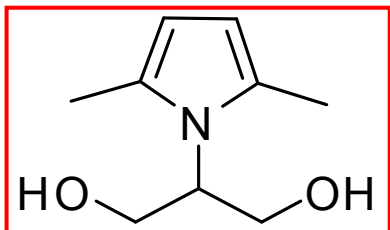
<u>Secondary accelerator</u>		=	DPG	Serinol	SCam
<u>Parameter</u>					
M_L	dNm	7.1	6.1	7.0	6.5
t_{s5}^a	min	46.4	28.9	25.7	37.3

^aScorch time t_{s5} : = time needed to have an increase of torque of 5 dNm

Solvent extraction of silica / secondary accelerator masterbatches



Conclusions



Thanks for the attention!

CPAC Rome Workshop 2018

**March 19-21, 2018,
University of Washington Rome Center**

