

## **New hybrid materials based on cyclophosphazene and polysiloxane precursors: synthesis and properties**

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### **Abstract**

New cross-linked polymers with different morphology based on cyclotriphosphazene and polysiloxane precursors were obtained by the thiol-ene radical addition. A series of samples such as aerogels with various density, a xerogel, a monolith and a film were prepared and their physico-mechanical properties were studied. Phosphazene-containing polymeric aerogels were prepared directly in supercritical carbon dioxide (scCO<sub>2</sub>) media. The morphology of the samples was investigated by scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The average particle size in the aerogels was in the range of 2-15  $\mu\text{m}$ . The mechanical properties of all the samples were studied by the compression test. It was shown that the Young modulus of the monolith (95 MPa) was 7 times larger than that of the xerogel (14 MPa). The aerogels are porous elastic polymers with the Young modulus of 0.032 and 0.257 MPa, correspondingly. The thermal stability of the samples was evaluated by thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA). Weight loss was observed in the range of 255-298 °C in air and 251-295 °C in argon for all the samples. Aerogel samples have a greater water contact angle (130° for **A1** and 136° for **A2**) than xerogel (122°), monolith (121°) and film samples (84°), which can be explained by the lotus effect.

### **Keywords**

Hybrid materials; phosphazene; siloxane; aerogel; xerogel.

## Conclusions

In summary, new hybrid materials with different morphology such as aerogels, xerogel, monolith and film were obtained based on organoelement precursors, cyclotriphosphazene and polysiloxane, by the hydrothiolation reaction and their physico-mechanical properties were studied. It was shown that varying the conditions for the formation of the mesh structure allows one to prepare polymers with specified mechanical characteristics. Studies of the morphology of the samples by scanning electron microscopy (SEM) showed that the average particle size was in the range of 2-15  $\mu\text{m}$  in the case of aerogels. The mechanical properties of all the samples were studied by the compression test. It was shown that the Young modulus of the monolith (95 MPa) was 7 times larger than that of the xerogel (14 MPa) whereas aerogels **A1**, **A2** are porous elastic polymers with the Young modulus of 0.032 and 0.257 MPa correspondingly. The thermal stability of the samples was estimated by thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA) which showed a good thermal stability of these materials. Weight loss was observed in the range of 255-298  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  in air and 251-295  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  in argon for all the samples. The aerogel samples have a greater water contact angle (130 $^{\circ}$  for **A1** and 136 $^{\circ}$  for **A2**) than the xerogel (122 $^{\circ}$ ), monolith (121 $^{\circ}$ ) and film samples (84 $^{\circ}$ ), which can be explained by the lotus effect.

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