Poly(o-arylene)s from [2.2.1]Oxabicyclic Alkenes as Monomers

**Significance:** The instability of aryne has prevented its polymerization to form poly(o-arylene)s. Only few examples of oligomeric o-arylenes through iterative coupling reactions are reported. Ito, Takahashi, and Nozaki report the synthesis of poly(o-arylene)s via polymerization of [2.2.1]oxabicyclic alkenes, followed by acid-catalyzed dehydation.

**Comment:** In this chain-growth polymerization, the co-solvent and the additive 2,6-lutidine play key roles. Toluene may stabilize the cationic palladium catalyst species and may hinder \( \beta \)-oxygen elimination (the termination step). Dichloroethane (DCE) solubilizes the palladium catalyst in toluene. 2,6-Lutidine produces polymer 2 with high yields and a low polydispersity index.

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Synfacts 2014, 10(8), 0809  Published online: 18.07.2014
DOI: 10.1055/s-0034-1378477; Reg-No.: S06914SF

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