Doubling Down on Diamines for Direct Arylation Polymerization

Significance: Side reactions such as homo-coupling and C–H activation at undesirable positions lead to branching, cross-linking, and the formation of insoluble materials during direct arylation polymerization (DArP). The authors developed a novel, mixed ligand catalyst system for palladium-catalyzed DArP. With the addition of tetramethylethlenediamine (TMEDA) as a co-ligand, these side reactions have been prevented and higher polymer molecular weights can be achieved.

Comment: The presence of TMEDA as basic co-ligand interferes with a catalytic cycle that leads to aryl halide (DTS-I2) reduction and homo-coupling of an unfunctionalized arene (DTS), the so-called trans route. This promotes the desired cross-coupling reaction to form poly(DTS-alt-TPD) through the cis route.