Nickel- or Palladium-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Polycondensation

Significance: The authors describe a cross-coupling polycondensation of Grignard reagents and various aromatic ethers or ammonium salts to form π-conjugated polymers with high molecular weight through C–O or C–N bond cleavage. The reaction proceeds under mild conditions in the presence of commercially available Ni or Pd catalysts.

Comment: Interestingly, the optimized reaction conditions showed that the quality and purity of the organometallic compound critically influenced the yield and reactivity of this polycondensation. In the presence of mono-Grignard reagents, the chain-growth was terminated and the molecular weight was reduced.