Dimesogenic Compounds with a Schiff Base Mesogenic Units and a Tetramethylene Flexible Spacer

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A homologous series of novel liquid crystal compounds having two identical terminal Schiff base mesogenic unit and a central tetramethylene spacer were prepared.

The molecular structures of the dimesogenic compounds are presented below

$$X \xrightarrow{\qquad \qquad } N = CH \xrightarrow{\qquad \qquad } O \xrightarrow{\qquad \qquad } CH_2 \xrightarrow{\qquad \qquad } CH = N \xrightarrow{\qquad \qquad } X$$

X=-F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -CN, $-CF_3$, $-OCH_3$

Their thermal and liquid crystal properties of the dimesogenic compounds were studied by differential scanning calorimetry and polarizing microscopy. The final products with X=-F, -Cl, -Br, -CN and $-OCH_3$ were enantiotropically nematic liquid crystalline. In contrast, the compounds with X=-I and $-CF_3$ were non-liquid crystalline. The nematic forming efficiency of the groups was in the order of $-CN > -OCH_3 > -Br > -Cl > -F$.