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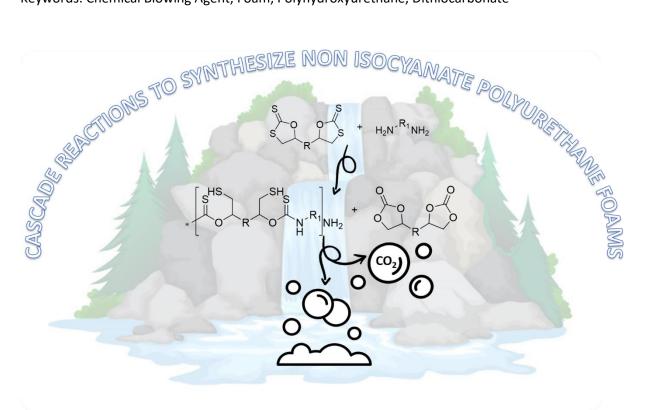
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Cascade (dithio)carbonate ring opening reactions for self-blowing Polyhydroxythiourethane foams

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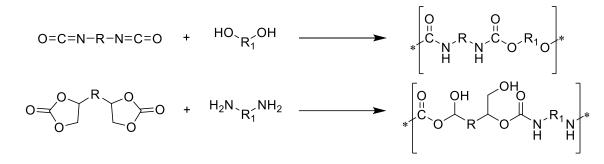
9 Abstract:

10 Polyurethane (PU) foams are very common materials that have found many applications over the 11 years. Their use is constantly improving due to their unique physical properties and easy blowing which 12 does not require the addition of a blowing agent. Greener routes have been explored in the recent 13 years to replace isocyanates. One of the most promising routes is leading to Polyhydroxyurethanes 14 (PHU). However, with PHUs, external blowing agent are usually required to obtain a foam. Thus, our 15 work focuses on PHU foam synthesis using in situ reaction to produce NIPU foam. Hence, the 16 aminolysis of thiocyclic carbonate triggers Pearson reaction between released thiols and cyclic 17 carbonates which serves as a chemical blowing agent.

18 1. Introduction

Otto Bayer pioneered polyurethanes (PU) during the 30's, derived from the reaction of diisocyanates and polyols.¹ PU have been tailored for multiple applications from wood glue to bed mattresses using the easy variation of the ratio of the two components.^{2,3} Thus, PU are widely used nowadays with more than 20 Mt produced in 2020 particularly for foams applications that represent two thirds of the global production.^{4–6} The foaming reaction is generally induced by hydrolysis of isocyanates with the release of carbon dioxide as by-product. The release of gas expands the polymer during the curing, leading to foams with various properties depending on polyisocyanates and polyols used (scheme 1).⁷ Despite the importance of PU, the health concerns and regulatory changes associated with the use of toxic isocyanates such as 4,4'-methylenebis(phenyl isocyanate) or m-tolylidene diisocyanate have driven industrial and academic researches to develop isocyanate-free PU foams.^{8,9}

29 In order to design PU without isocyanate, the step-growth copolymerization between amines and 5-30 membered cyclic carbonates that leads to non-isocyanate polyurethanes (NIPU) has recently gained 31 increased attention (scheme 1).^{10–15} This is the most promising route to replace the conventional PU synthesis.^{16–25} Since a β hydroxy group is created, close to carbamate function, these polymers are 32 33 named polyhydroxyurethanes (PHU). Nevertheless, the reaction between cyclocarbonates and amines 34 does not produce gas unlike isocyanate with water, which limits the use of such promising polymers, 35 since foams are not easily obtained. In order to overcome this drawback, external blowing agents are needed to blow the foams. Blattmann et al. used a physical blowing agent (PBA) Solkane 365/227 36 37 which evaporates during polymer curing and Grignard et al. obtained a foam using supercritical CO2.^{26,27} Another approach is the utilization of a chemical blowing agent (CBA). Hence, Cornille et al. 38 39 used this method with a poly(methylhydroxysiloxane) CBA and pioneered the synthesis of PHU foams. 40 This CBA reacts with amines in order to release H₂ which expands the thermoset during the polymerization and yields a foam.²⁸ Moreover, this reaction also occurred - slowly - at room 41 temperature in order to obtain flexible foams.²⁹ Sodium carbonate has also been explored as blowing 42 agent by Xi et al. at 200°C in order to obtain rigid foams.³⁰ More recently, Clark et al. used the side 43 44 reaction of ring opening of a bis-carbonate at 100°C to produce CO₂ and obtained a foam. However, 45 this approach remains limited to some monomers whose synthesis is complex which narrows the interest of this route.^{31,32} In the search for new CBAs, our team recently reported a review dedicated 46 to current blowing agents including innovative routes to blow foams with new chemical pathways to 47 produce gases.³³ Recently, Monie et al. interestingly prepared for the first time self-blowing PHU foams 48 using the Pearson reaction e.g. the reaction between a nucleophilic thiol and a cyclic carbonate, which 49 50 produces CO_2 as co-product (scheme 2). The use of the Pearson reaction is attractive because the 51 blowing reaction occurs simultaneously with the curing reaction. Moreover the released gas is non-52 toxic and non-flammable unlike H₂ or other PBAs.³⁴ However, such reaction requires the use of a thiol in the formulation with the amine, which could usually confer bad odor. Moreover, the use of volatile 53 54 compound could lead to further issues in a formulation, such as leaching or toxicity situations.

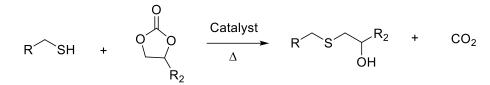


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56 Scheme 1: Reactional scheme for PU (top) and PHUs (bottom) synthesis.

57 Moreover, through the different studies carried out on PHUs, the main drawback remains the low 58 reactivity of aminolysis of 5-membered cyclic carbonates (5CCs) compare to reaction between alcohol 59 and isocyanate. In order to overcome this issue, several studies have been conducted. First, more 60 reactive 5CCs with electron-withdrawing groups have been tested.^{35–37} Then, six-, seven-, eight-

membered cyclic carbonates.^{35,38,39} However the usual synthesis of six- and higher membered cyclic 62 carbonates uses triphosgene which limits their interest. A new way of carbonate synthesis has been 63 64 developed in order to avoid the use of triphosgene, but the use of such monomer is still limited since intercarbonation side reaction is possible.^{40–42} Moreover, different catalysts have been studied in order 65 to improve the kinetics of aminolysis of cyclic carbonate. Hence, 1,5,7-triazabicyclo [4.4.0]dec-5-ene 66 67 and cyclohexylphenyl thiourea have been reported as the best catalysts by Blain et al. and Lambeth et 68 al.^{43,44} Nevertheless, despite numerous studies carried out in order to improve 5CCs/amine kinetics, nowadays, only one paper claims the synthesis of a PHU foam at room temperature with a total 69 conversion.²⁹ Beyond the foam synthesis, some other studies showed a total conversion of PHU with 70 fast kinetics and catalyst-free.⁴⁵⁻⁴⁷ Additionally, thio-cyclic carbonate or dithiocarbonate (DTC) have 71 been first synthesized using carbon disulfide instead of CO₂, in one step synthesis, by Endo et al.⁴⁸ who 72 73 demonstrated their high reactivity. Thus, despite their higher reactivity compare to other cyclic 74 carbonates, such monomers have still aroused limited interest.^{49,50}



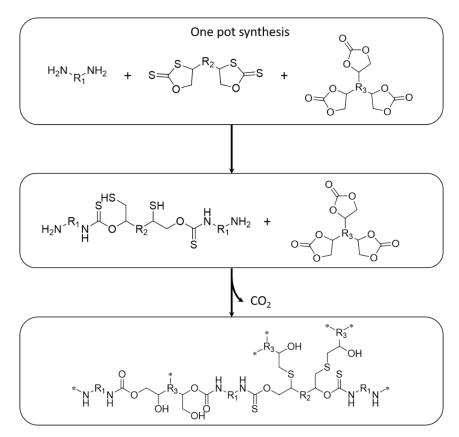
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76 Scheme 2: Pearson reaction

In order to increase the reactivity of carbonates and obtain a NIPU foam, a masked thiol could be added in the polymer matrix.⁵¹ Indeed, thiol moiety is released by the aminolysis of a dithiocarbonate.⁵² We therefore postulated that combining 5CCs and DTC with amine should lead to two competitive ringopening reactions. Hence, on one side could occur the reaction between the amine and DTC, which leads to β -thiourethanes and CO₂. On the other side is the reaction between the amine and 5CCs, which leads to hydroxyurethanes. Thus, we hypothesized that a foam could be obtained by mixing amine

83 with DTC and 5CCs without any external blowing agent.

Hence, in the present study, we have chosen to elaborate first self-blowing Non-Isocyanate PolyThioUrethanes (NIPTUs) foams by the aminolysis of both 5CCs and DTC, which simultaneously entails a decarboxylation of 5CCs by the thiol formed by DTC/amine reaction. First, difunctional monomers have been synthesized and characterized. Secondly the foams have been synthesized. At last, the obtained NIPU foams have been characterized. Moreover, we have proved that CO₂ is the only gas formed during the curing.



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91 Scheme 3: General scheme of the synthesis of PHTU foam

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2. Experimental section

94 2.1. Materials

Poly(propylene glycol) diglycidyl ether ($M_n=640$ g.mol⁻¹), carbon disulfide (CS_2 , purity 99%), 95 96 trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether, tetrabutylammonium bromide (purity 99%), lithium bromide 97 (purity 99%), propylene oxide (purity 99%), dodecylamine (purity 99%), 1-dodecanethiol (purity 98%) 98 were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Darmstadt Germany). 1,8-Diazabicyclo [5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU) 99 were purchased from TCI EUROPE N.V (Zwijndrecht, Belgium). Ethyl acetate was purchased from VWR International S.A.S (Fontenay-sous-Bois, France). Laponite-S 482 was kindly provided by IMCD (Lyon, 100 101 France). The TEGOMER E-Si 2330 was provided by Evonik (Amsterdam, Netherlands). The NMR solvent 102 used is CDCl₃ from Eurisotop.

- 103 2.2. Characterizations
- 104 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

Proton Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (¹H NMR) analyses were carried out in deuterated chloroform
 (CDCl₃, 99.50% isotopic purity) using Bruker Avance III 400 MHz NMR spectrometer at a temperature
 of 25 °C.

108 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy

109 Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a *Nicolet 210 Fourier* transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR)

spectrometer. The characteristic IR absorptions mentioned in the text where strong bands are

111 reported in cm⁻¹.

112 Thermogravimetric Analyses

113 Thermogravimetric Analyses (TGA) were carried out using TG 209F1 apparatus (Netzch). 114 Approximately 10 mg of sample were placed in an alumina crucible and heated from room 115 temperature to 800°C at a heating rate of 20 °C/min under nitrogen atmosphere (40 mL/min). A 116 nitrogen flow was used to protect the apparatus.

117 Differential Scanning Calorimetry

Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) analyses were carried out using a NETZSCH DSC200F3 calorimeter, which was calibrated using indium, n-octadecane and n-octane standards. Nitrogen was used as purge gas. Approximately 10 mg of sample were placed in a perforated aluminum pan and the thermal properties were recorded between -150 °C and 120 °C at 20 °C/min to observe the glass transition temperature. The Tg values were measured on the second heating ramp to erase the thermal history of the polymer. All the reported temperatures are average values on three different tries.

125 Dynamic Mechanical Analyses

126 Dynamic Mechanical Analyses (DMA) were carried out on Metravib DMA 25 with Dynatest 6.8

127 Software. Uniaxial stretching of foam samples (10x15x12 mm³) was performed while heating at a rate

128 of 3°C.min⁻¹ from -120°C to 120°C, keeping frequency at 1Hz.

- 129 The mechanical compression of the samples was measured at room temperature using 10x15x12 mm³
- 130 foam samples in the creep mode with compression plate. The static maximum force used was fixed to
- 131 20 N with application time 60 s and maximum displacement of 30% of strain and the time charging of
- 132 1 s. Then, the time of recovery of foams was measured during 60 s
- 133 Hardness
- 134 Shore 0 hardness for foam was measured on a durometer Shore Hardness Tester HD0 100-1 from
- 135 Sauter. Samples with 0.5 cm thickness were prepared for the measurement. An average of five
- 136 measurements was performed.
- 137 Gel content
- 138 Three samples from the same material, of around 20 mg each, were separately immersed in THF for
- 139 24 h. The three samples were then dried in a ventilated oven at 70°C for 24h. The gel content (GC) was
- 140 calculated using equation (5), where m_2 is the mass of the dried material and m_1 is the initial mass.
- 141 Reported gel content are average values of the three samples.

$$GC = \frac{m_2}{m_1} \times 100 \tag{4}$$

142 Scanning electron microscopy

143 The morphology and the internal structure of the foams were analyzed using in parallel surface to the

- rise direction of NIPU foam by scanning electron microscopy (SEM). A FEI Quanta 200 FEG was used to obtained foam images.
- 146 Optic microscopy
- 147 Due to the pores size few foams were analyzed by optic microscopy. A Leica DM 6000 M was used.
- 148 Rheological experiments

- 149 The gelation times were measured using a Thermo Fisher HAAKE MARS rheometer with a plate-plate
- 150 geometry with a diameter of 25 mm. The gelation times were analyzed by observing the crossover of
- the storage modulus (G) and loss modulus (G) during an oscillatory experiment at 1 Hz, 90 °C and 2%
- 152 of deformation, according to the previously determined linear domain.
- 153 Titration of the amine equivalent weight of Jeffamine EDR-148 by ¹H NMR
- 154 The Amine Equivalent Weight (AEW) is the amount of product needed for one equivalent of reactive 155 amine function. It was determined by ¹H NMR using and internal standard (benzophenone). A known
- 156 mass of product and benzophenone were poured into an NMR tube and 550 μL of CDCl_3.were added.
- 157 The AEW was determined using equation (5) by comparing the integration value of the signals assigned
- to the benzophenone protons (7.5-7.8 ppm) with the integration of the signals arising from amine
- 159 moiety protons (2.67 ppm).

$$AEW = \frac{\int PhCOPh \times H_{amine}}{\int amine \times H_{PhOCPh}} \times \frac{m_{amine}}{m_{PhCOPh}} \times M_{PhCOPh}$$
(5)

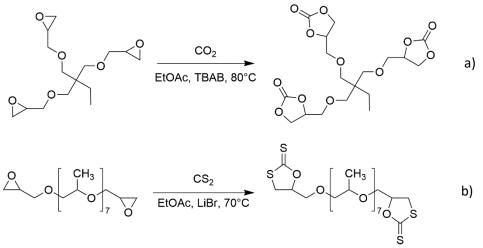
- 160 \int_{PhCOPh} : integration of the signal from benzophenone protons; \int_{amine} : integration of the signals from 161 protons in α the amine function; H_{amine} : number of protons in α of the amine function; H_{PhCOPh} : number 162 of benzophenone protons; m_{amine} : amine mass; $m_{PhOCOPh}$: benzophenone mass; M_{PhCOPh} : benzophenone 163 molecular weight.
- 164 Titration of the carbonate equivalent weight by ¹H NMR
- 165 The Carbonate Equivalent Weight (CEW) is the amount of product needed for one equivalent of 166 reactive cyclic carbonate or thiocarbonate function. It was determined by ¹H NMR using and internal 167 standard (benzophenone). A known mass of product and benzophenone were poured into an NMR 168 tube and 550 μ L of CDCl₃.were added. The CEW was determined using equation (6) by comparing the 169 integration value of the signals assigned to the benzophenone protons (7.5-7.8 ppm) with the 170 integration of the signals arising from cyclic carbonate (4.85 ppm for TMPTC and 5.25 ppm for 171 polypropylene oxide bis-thiocarbonate).

$$CEW = \frac{\int PhCOPh \times H_{carbonate}}{\int carbonate \times H_{PhOCPh}} \times \frac{m_{carbonate}}{m_{PhCOPh}} \times M_{PhCOPh}$$
(6)

 \int_{PhCOPh} : integration of the signal from benzophenone protons; $\int_{Carbonate}$: integration of the signals from 173 protons in α the carbonate function; $H_{Carbonate}$: number of protons in α of the carbonate function; H_{PhCOPh} : number of benzophenone protons; $m_{Carbonate}$: product mass; $m_{PhOCOPh}$: benzophenone mass; M_{PhCOPh} : benzophenone molecular weight.

- 176 2.3. Synthesis
- 177 Monomer synthesis
- 178 Synthesis of trimethylpropane tricarbonate (TMPTC)
- 179 Trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether (TMPTGE; 300 g, 0.99 mol) and tetrabutylammonium bromide
- 180 (TBAB; 9.596 g, 0.029 mmol) were solubilized in 100 mL of AcOEt and added to a 600 mL sealed reactor.
- 181 The reaction was carried out at 80 $^{\circ}$ C under 20 bars of CO₂ for 120 h. The crude mixture was then
- washed with water and brine to remove TBAB. The organic layer was then dried with magnesiumsulfate and under vacuum. The pure product was obtained as a yellowish viscous liquid (yield = 90%).
- 184 ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ/ppm = 0.84 (t, CH₃), 1.41 (m, CH₂), 3.28-4.03 (m, CH₂), 4.46 (m, CH₂), 4.49 (t, CH₂), 4.85 (m, CH).
- 186 Synthesis of polypropylene oxide bis-thiocarbonate (PPOTC)

- 187 Poly(propylene oxide) diglycidyl ether $\overline{M_n} = 640$ g.mol⁻¹ (PPO-GE-640) and LiBr (0.55 g, 0.0063 mmol)
- 188 were solubilized in 100 mL of EtOAc and added in a two-necked round bottom flask equipped with a
- 189 condenser. The mixture was heated at 60° C and then CS₂ (47.58 g, 0.625 mol) was added. The reaction
- was carried out 96 hours at 60°C. The CS₂ was then evaporated and the crude mixture was then washed
 with water and brine to remove LiBr. The organic layer was then dried with magnesium sulfate and
- 192 under vacuum. The pure product was obtained as a viscous yellowish liquid (yield= 85%)
- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ/ppm = 1.16 (m, CH₃), 3.32-4.1 (m, CH₂, CH), 5.25 (m, CH)
- 194 General procedure of foam synthesis
- 195 Materials were synthesized with a cyclic carbonate or PPOTC molar/amine ratio of 1/1. The amine and 196 carbonate masses were calculated with the equation (6) and (7), respectively, where n_{carbonate} and n_{amine} 197 are the number of moles of cyclic carbonate amine, and AEW is the amine equivalent weight and CEW is the carbonate equivalent weight. The formulations of NIPTUs foams were calculated from 1 198 199 equivalent of carbonate, 1 equivalent of amine, 0.05 molar equivalent of DBU in relation to the 200 carbonate. The mass targeted for each formulation is approximatively 10g. First, the TMPTC and DBU 201 were placed in the silicone mold and mixed manually 2 minutes. Then the PPOTC was added to the 202 mixture and stirred 2 more minutes. Finally, the EDR-148 was poured and the mixture was, once again, 203 stirred 2 minutes. The obtained foamed mixture was heated at 90°C for 24h. All additives were used 204 following the technical data sheet of the suppliers
- 3. Results & Discussion
- 206 Synthesis and characterizations of raw materials
- 207 Before the synthesis of the monomers and the NIPTUs foams, a complete characterization of raw 208 materials has been carried out to determine the functionality of trimethylolpropane tricarbonate and 209 polypropylene oxide bis-thiocarbonate. Moreover, the NH₂ functionality of the 2,2'-210 (ethylenedioxy)bis(ethylamine) EDR-148 was calculated.
- 211 The trimethylolpropane tricarbonate (TMPTC) was synthesized by carbonation reaction of commercial 212 trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether in presence of tetrabutylammonium bromide and EtOAc (Scheme 213 4a). Polypropylene oxide bis-thiocarbonate (PPOTC) was synthesized by thiocarbonation reaction of 214 commercial poly(propylene oxide) diglycidyl ether (PPO-DE, $\overline{M_n} = 640$ g.mol⁻¹) in presence of lithium bromide and EtOAc (Scheme 4b). Their structures have been confirmed by ¹H NMR (Figures S3 and S4). 215 216 In order to establish exactly the carbonate functionality (CEW) of cyclic carbonate and cyclic 217 thiocarbonate, ¹H NMR analyses with standard solution (CDCl₃ with 10-20mg of Benzophenone) were 218 achieved. The CEW presented in Table 1 is the average of three different titrations. The obtained CEW 219 of the TMPTC is below 3, this result is not linked to uncompleted conversion of the epoxide during the 220 carbonation reaction. It is linked to the uncompleted epoxidation of the trimethylolpropane with 221 epichlorohydrin since the TMPTGE received has a functionality of 2.6.



222 Scheme 4: a) Carbonation of TMPTC b) Thiocarbonation of PPO-DE

223 Amine

In order to obtain the alternative NIPUs foams, the Jeffamine EDR-148 (EDR 148) was tested with both
 TMPTC and PPOTC. The ¹H NMR spectrum of the EDR-148 confirms the di-functionality of this amine
 (Figure S5). Actually, the peak of the amine function (NH₂) at 0.8 ppm integrates for 3.87 protons.
 Indeed, EDR 148 is based on ethylene glycol and contains two primary amine groups with an oxygen

in y position relative to amine group inducing high reactivity of the amine.

Reactants	CEW (g.eq ⁻¹)	AHEW (g.eq ⁻¹)	Carbonate, thiocarbonate or amine functions	\overline{M} (g.mol ⁻¹)
TMPTC	184	-	2.6	476
PPOTC	440	-	1.8	792
EDR-148	-	74	2	148

229 Table 1: Characterization of reactants. CEW= average of three ¹H NMR, AHEW calculated by ¹H NMR.

230 Foam preparation

231 In this study, four foams have been prepared at 90°C from TMPTC and PPOTC in combination with EDR-232 148. The TMPTC has a functionality of 2.6 (Table 1), therefore, this compound could confer rigidity to 233 the system through the crosslinking with the diamine. 1,8-Diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU) has 234 been identified as the best catalyst by Monie et al. to catalyze the reaction between thiol and cyclocarbonate.³⁴ No blowing agent is added since the aim of this work is to use the reaction of the *in* 235 situ produced thiol with cyclic carbonate in order to produce CO₂. A ratio 1:1 of amine:cyclic 236 237 carbonate/DTC is used during this study. Nevertheless, these formulations do not take into account 238 the reaction between thiol and cyclic carbonate. A slight default of amine should be used since cyclic 239 carbonates react with the thiol. Thus, an optimization of the formulation has been carried out to determine the best ratio amine:cyclic carbonate/DTC. The highest Tg was obtained for the 240 241 stoichiometry 1:1 (amine:carbonate), the result are presented in supporting information (Figure S7). 242 These foams were prepared following the formulation based on carbonate equivalent weight (CEW) 243 and amine reactive hydrogen equivalent weight (AHEW) from Table 2. First, we added the TMPTC, DBU 244 and dithiocarbonate. The mixture was mixed manually 2 min then the amine was added and mixed 245 two more minutes. Then, the formulations were poured in a silicone mold and heated at 90°C during 24h. To improve the shape of the foam, Laponite S482 (Laponite) additive was used used.⁵³ This 246 247 additive acts as a nucleating agent by the stabilization of the cells. Homogeneous foam with small cells 248 are expected with Laponite S482. Additionally, the TEGOMER E-Si 2330 (Tegomer) was added. This 249 polydimethylsiloxane containing unreactive epoxy acts as a surfacing agent.

250 The differences of structure of NIPU foams were observed by scanning electron microscopy (SEM) or 251 optic microscopy. Moreover, the measurement of the apparent density and dynamic mechanical 252 analysis (DMA) completed the analyses of foam structure. Then, the cross-linking degree was 253 determined by measurement of the swelling and insoluble contents. Finally, thermal and thermo-254 mechanical properties of NIPU foams were characterized by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), 255 thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) and dynamic mechanical analysis (DMA).

-		-	-		
		Equiv	valents		
Foam	TMPTC	PPOTC	EDR148	DBU	

Foom		Equivalents				
Foam	TMPTC	PPOTC	EDR148	DBU	(5wt%)	
1	0.7	0.3	1	0	-	
2	0.7	0.3	1	0.03	-	
3	0.7	0.3	1	0.03	Tegomer	
4	0.7	0.3	1	0.03	Laponite	

256

257 Table 2: NIPU foam formulations in equivalent.

258 Structural characterization of NIPU foams

259 First, the foams were characterized visually in order to compare the homogeneity according to the 260 formulation. From this first characterization, it can be concluded that there is a need to use a catalyst since the foam 1 (Table 2) collapsed during baking to give a thermosetting material without any cell. 261 262 Such result could be explained by a longer period to obtain the adequate viscosity to maintain the gas in the material. Tests were carried out in order to define which ratio TMPTC / PPOTC is necessary to 263 obtain a foam. Indeed, TMPTC is trifunctional and allows crosslinking and PPOTC flexibility between 264 265 cross-linking nods. Thus the ratio between the two monomer is important to have a foam with a great 266 shape. The results presented in Table 3 show a ratio minimum of TMPTC about 0.7 equivalent. Indeed, 267 when the TMPTC has a lower ratio the foam collapsed. Thus, 0.7 equivalent defined the limit of TMPTC 268 to use in order to obtain a foam. For the following experiments the ratio was kept as 0.7 TMPTC and 0.3 PPOTC. Hence, the higher could be the ratio of PPOTC, the more CO₂ we could produce. Then, the 269 270 ratio amine:cyclocarbonate/DTC was optimized. The material with highest T_g corresponds to the best ratio. It was obtained for a ratio 1:1. Hence, the reaction between the thiol and the cyclic carbonate 271 272 does not modify the theoretical ratio.

Equivalent of TMPTC	Equivalent of PPOTC	Result
0.5	0.5	No foam
0.6	0.4	No foam
0.7	0.3	Foam

273 Table 3: Determination of the ratio TMPTC/PPOTC for further experiment. Result observed after 24h at 90°C.

- 274 Thereafter, since our system is more reactive than the system using 5CCs, foams synthesis was carried
- 275 out at 50°C. A porous material has been obtained with little cells (0.30 ± 0.02 mm) and with a high
- 276 density (0.843 g.cm⁻³). The figure 1 shows the porous material obtained at 50°C.





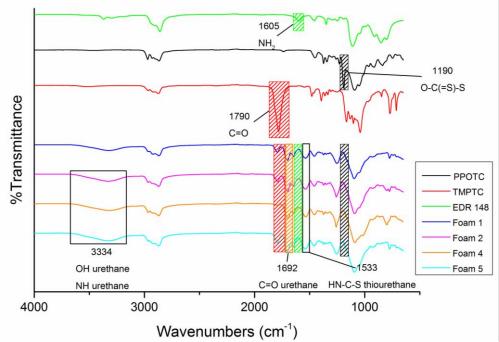
Cross-section

277 Figure 1: Picture of the NIPU foam obtain at 50°C.

278 In order to obtain a foam with a higher expansion and a better shape, the following foam were carried 279 out at 90°C. These foams were cured at 90°C during 24 hours. Infrared spectroscopy analysis was 280 performed to check the complete conversion of carbonate and thiocarbonate groups respectively from 281 TMPTC and PPOTC with EDR 148. The FTIR analysis of the foam confirmed the conversion of the 282 dithiocarbonate with the disappearance of the C=S band around 1190 cm⁻¹ of the PPOTC (Figure 2). According to the C=S band disappearance, the appearance of the characteristic band of thiourethane 283 elongation N-C(=S)-O was observed at 1533 cm^{-1.50} Moreover, we observed the disappearance of the 284 bands characteristic of the carbonate groups C=O bond stretching at 1790 cm⁻¹. The appearance of the 285 286 characteristic band at 1692 cm⁻¹ corresponding to elongation of urethane C=O bond confirmed the 287 conversion of the cyclic carbonate. Finally, the characteristic bands of the N-H amine of the urethane 288 and the hydroxy groups due to the ring opening of the carbonate appeared respectively as wide peaks between at 3150 cm⁻¹ and 3615 cm⁻¹. These results prove the total conversion of the thiocarbonate 289 290 and the formation of the thiourethane bond. The thiol formed in situ during the foam synthesis is also totally consumed since the S-H characteristic band at 2600 cm⁻¹ is not present after 24h at 90°C. 291

Nevertheless, FTIR analysis showed a peak at 1790 cm⁻¹ corresponding to C=O elongation of the cyclic carbonate after the curing. It means that the conversion of the cyclic carbonate functions is not complete. Despite optimized stoichiometry and extended curing at 120°C during 2h, the cyclic carbonate peak is still present in FTIR spectra (figure S12 and S14). The remaining functions are blocked in the cured material. Such result is coherent with the different results obtained by other researchers whom obtained conversion around 80%.^{54,55}

In addition, a rheology experiment was carried out in order to determine the gel time of additive-free formulation (figure 3). At 90°C the gel time is obtained in 3700 seconds, approximatively one hour. The rheological experiments gave information on the kinetics of reaction too. Indeed, the viscosity of the formulation rapidly increased to reach a plateau. The quick increase of the viscosity is due to the reaction between the amine and the dithiocarbonate. Then the curing of the TMPTC leads to the gel point.

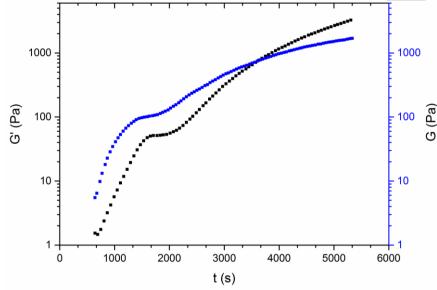


304 Figure 2: IR analysis of the reactants and the different NIPU foams after 24h at 90°C.

305 Gel content (GC) measurements have been carried out. For all foams, the GC obtained are about 85%

306 (table 4). These results confirmed the presence of a cured network. The residual cyclic carbonate

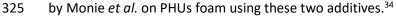
307 functions could explain the non-quantitative gel content.

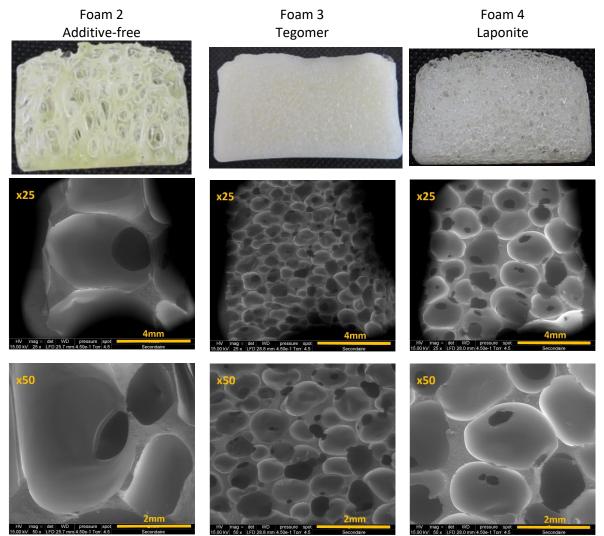


308 Figure 3: Gel point analysis of the formulation 2 at 90°C.

309 After the preliminary experiments, the formulations have been synthesized. First, the foam 2 showed 310 a relative homogeneity. Indeed, the pores exhibit similar sizes but the pore are not well-distributed in 311 the foam (figure 4). The foam showed cells with a size 3.8 ± 1.1 mm (table 4). Wide cells are obtained 312 during the synthesis of foam 2. It is linked to the non-stabilization of the cells during their formation 313 leading to the cells coalescence. To improve the stabilization of the cells, two additives were added and led to homogeneous foams, foam 3 and 4 (figure 4). The use of the additives led to the 314 315 improvement of the cells number, which corresponds to the stabilization of cells. The effect of each additive has been explained in the literature by Peyrton et al.⁵⁶ Foams 3 and 4 exhibit higher 316 homogeneity, with higher number of cells and with same, reduced sizes, which confirms the effect of 317

the additives (Table 4). The apparent density (ρ_a) of the foams varies between 0.249 to 0.445 g.cm⁻³. These foams are characterized as high-density foams since usual PU foams have density around 0.02 g.cm⁻³. The ration A_h/A_c showed an important decrease when additives are used. It shows the effect of both additives on the foam structure. Indeed, without additives the foams have a structure with a lot of interconnected cells and the use of additives allows to improve the number of closed cells. Nevertheless, the difference between the Tegomer and the Laponite is low. So, no conclusion on the best additive is possible. The results obtained is this part are in adequation with the work carried out





326 Figure 4: SEM pictures of NIPU foams

327

– Foam	Cell size (mm)	ρ₀ (g.cm⁻³)	Cell density (Ncell) (cells.cm ⁻³)	Ah/Ac	Gel Content (%)	
2	3.8±1.1	0.364	175±3	0.422	83	
3	0.79±0.3	0.445	80000±250	0.132	83	
4	1.06±0.5	0.249	23000±110	0.152	82	

328 Table 4: Main physical characteristic values of the NIPUs foams.

329 Thermal characterization

330 First, thermal properties were measured by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC). Two dynamic ramps were performed between -100°C and +100°c at 20°C.min⁻¹ under nitrogen flow. Results of DSC 331 measurements are shown in Table 5. The foams presented two T_g which means that the polymer has 332 333 two phases. The first one corresponds to the phase rich in PPOTC and the second one corresponds to the phase rich in cross-linked TMPTC. This result is supported by the work of Besse et al., Cornille et al. 334 335 and Tomita et al. who demonstrated the higher reactivity of thiocarbonates compared to regular cyclocarbonates.^{35,52,57} Moreover, our group synthetized PHU foams using the same formulations 336 337 replacing the DTC monomer by a difunctional cyclocarbonate and only one T_g is observed.⁵⁸ The PPOTC 338 leads to lower T_g than the TMPTC. Moreover, the difference of ΔCp of each glass transition on the DSC 339 thermogram (figure 5) shows a substantial difference between the two T_g which can be linked to the 340 amount of monomer introduced in the formulation. All the Tg follow the same trend which is consistent 341 with the formulation since their only difference is the additive used. Moreover, the additives have 342 been chosen to improve the foam shape and not their thermal properties. Nevertheless, the use of

343 silica in the Tegomer might improve the thermal degradability since the silica is stable at 800°C.

Foams	T _{d5%}	T _{g 1} (°C)	T _{g 2} (°C)	Stress (kPa)	Recovery t (s)	Shore Hardness
2	231	-45	12	66	0.52	2.94 ± 1.45
3	245	-31	19	135	12.59	5.74 ± 1.26
4	235	-44	11	57	13.61	1.38 ± 0.44

344 Table 5: Thermomechanical properties of the NIPU foams

345 Thermal stability of the foams was also determined using thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) under inert

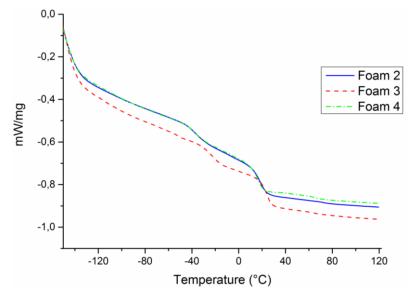
gas (nitrogen). The results are presented in Figure S19. The thermal degradation temperatures ($T_{d5\%}$)

are around 230°C for all foams. However, the foam containing Tegomer presented a higher amount of

residue at 800°C since it contains silica, which is stable at 800°C (Figure S19). The foam 4 presented

also a similar amount of residue due to the presence of clay, which remained undecomposed at 800°C

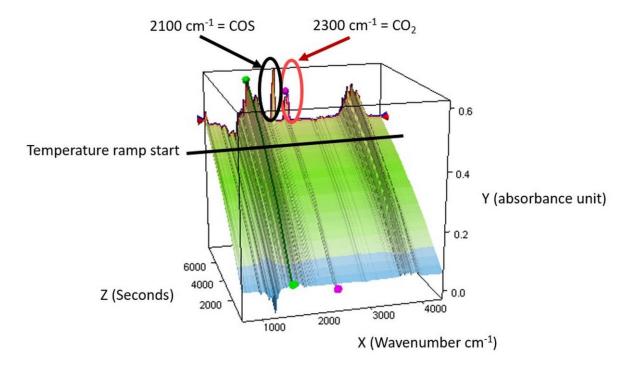
350 (figure S19).





352 Figure 5: DSC thermograms of the NIPUs foam. 2nde dynamic ramp after an isotherm of 1h at 120°C.

353 Another thermal analysis was carried out to determine the production of COS and other sulfuric 354 containing gases during the curing. A formulation of similar to the foam 2 was prepared and then a 355 sample between 30-40mg was introduced in a TGA equipped with an FTIR gas detector. The formulation without additive was then heated at 90°C during 2h followed by a temperature ramp to 356 357 200°C at 20°C/min. The figure 6 shows the 3D IR spectra. On figure 6, we observe that CO₂ is produced 358 during all the curing since a characteristic peak is detected at 2300 cm⁻¹. Thus, COS is not detected 359 during the curing. Nevertheless, during thermal decomposition a characteristic peak of sulfuric gases 360 is detected at 2100 cm⁻¹. Usually sulfuric compound can be decomposed in different gases such as SO₂ if there is oxygen nearby the sulfur.⁵⁹ Some other sulfuric compound can be produced during the 361 thermal decomposition of a polymer containing sulfur such as COS or SH₂. Depending on the result 362 obtained in IR analysis (Figure 6) COS is detected during decomposition.⁶⁰ The material seems to 363 release gases containing sulfur at higher temperature but the thermal properties can be improved 364 using flame retardant additives for example, since the sulfur is envisaged as possible candidate for 365 366 flame retardant synergistic additives.



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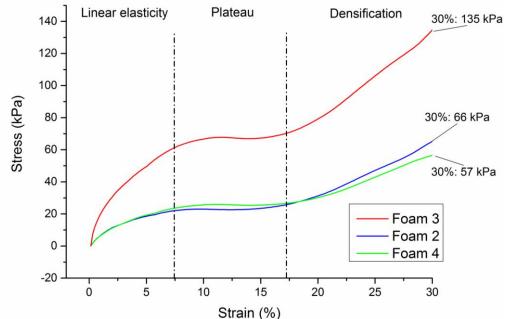


369

370 Mechanical analysis

Dynamic mechanical characterization of NIPU foams was carried out. In order to analyze these samples, two tests were performed. The first test corresponds to the study of the behavior of foams subjected to a stress in monotonic tension (Figure 7). The second test focuses on the recovery time of the foam after a compression at 30% of strain in parallel direction to the foam growth direction (Figure 7). The last analysis corresponds to the hardness study of each sample using a Shore 0 test, designed for foams. Before analysis the foam samples were cut in cuboid shapes with an average size of 10 x 12 with a market of the merced with a samples were study of the same state.

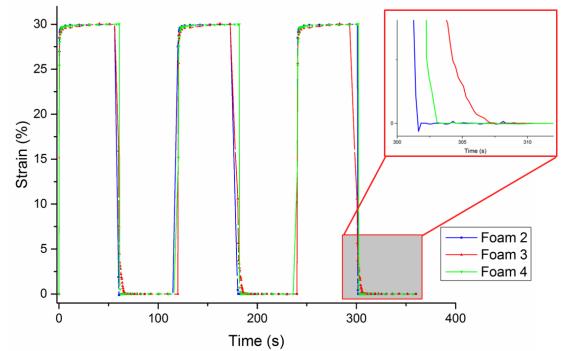
377 x 13 mm. Afterward, the samples were analyzed with compression plate.



378 Figure 7: DMA analysis in monotonic tension at room temperature.

379 The experiment in monotonic compression shows different behaviors. In fact, each of the three foams 380 presented in Figure 7 shows the same three regions. Each of these regions corresponds to different 381 steps. The first region corresponds to the linear elasticity and is equivalent to the strain for edge 382 bending of the foam. The second region, a plateau, corresponds to the collapse of the foam induced 383 by the compression of the cells. Finally, the third region is easily observed by a substantial increasing 384 of the stress for a lower strain. This region corresponds to the densification of the materials when all 385 the cells are entirely compressed. In the Figure 7, all the materials exhibit these three regions. Thus, 386 for the foam 2 and 4 with big cells, the linear elasticity regions are smaller than for foam 3. Such result 387 is explained by the presence of interconnected big cells, which reduces the linear elasticity but 388 increases the plateau region. Accordingly, with the results in table 5, the higher is the density of the 389 foam, the higher is the stress to be applied to compress the foam. Thus, foam 3 exhibits higher stress 390 than foams 2 and 4.

391 The second experiment explores the recovery of foams to the initial state. Hence, the materials were 392 compressed 3 times 60 seconds at 30% of strain and the time of recovery was recorded (Figure 8). From this graphic, all the tested samples recovered 99% of their initial shape in less than 30 seconds. 393 394 The structure of the foam does not affect significantly the recovery time after three compressions. The 395 foam 3 needed a longer recovery time for all the three compressions. The longer recovery time of the 396 foam 3 is due to the rigidity of the foam, which leads to longer time to recover the final shape. The 397 results of the compression experiment are summarized in the table 5. The third and last experiment 398 determines the hardness of each sample. The data recorded are summarized in Table 5. The results of 399 the hardness experiments confirmed the results obtained with the recovery time experiment and the 400 monotonic tension. Indeed, the foam 4 has the lowest hardness value and the foam 3 has the highest.



401 Figure 8: DMA analysis of the recovery time after 3 cycles of compression at 30% strain

402 Thermo-mechanical characterization

403 Finally, the thermo-mechanical properties of the foams were investigated using DMA. The figures S16 404 to S18 show the storage modulus E' and the loss factor tan δ as a function of temperature for NIPTUs. 405 The transition from vitreous to elastic domain is associated to the α transition relaxation. The 406 temperature corresponding to the α transition (T α) is associated to the glass transition temperature. 407 The value at the maximum of the tan δ curves corresponds to the temperature T α . The T_g determined 408 by DSC and the T_{α} follows the same tendency. The figures S16to S18 show wide tan δ peak for the 409 different foams, which shows a relative homogeneity of the foams despite the two different T_g 410 observed in DSC. Two T_{α} are expected in DMA, but it can be concluded the presence of the two 411 transitions in the wide transition observed in DMA. The different foams have similar T_{α} , which confirms 412 the same trend as the T_g measurement. All the T_α are comprised between 20 °C and 30 °C, which 413 confirms the trend, obtained by DSC.

414 **4.** Conclusion

415 Herein, we have described a cascade reaction strategy to obtain different structures of self-blown non-416 isocyanate poly(thio-urethane) foams. The ring opening of the dithiocarbonate yields in situ thiol 417 moiety able to react with usual cyclic carbonate, which represents an interesting alternative to the 418 commercial PU foams. Our work demonstrated the synthesis of NIPU foams using the Pearson reaction 419 without the direct use of thiols in the formulation. This work used dithiocarbonate with a higher 420 reactivity than cyclic carbonate, which allowed to obtain a porous material at moderated temperature 421 (50°C). Moreover, we determined the required parameters in order to obtain a foam with a good 422 shape. A catalyst, 90°C and the ratio of DTC are crucial to obtain a well expanded NIPU foam by this 423 route. The properties of the foam can be modulated using different additives. The mechanical and thermal properties obtained in this study is in adequation with the previous work carried out by Monie 424 et al. on the same foam structure.³³ The use of surfactant leads to microcellular material with low cell 425

426 interconnections. The use of additives using the Pickering stabilization led to bigger cells foams. Finally, 427 our investigation interestingly showed the absence of COS released during the curing of foams. The 428 thermal degradation could raise an issue but could be mitigated with flame retardant additives. To 429 conclude, this study shows the ability to obtain a NIPU foam with an internal bowing agent, at 430 moderate temperature, which corresponds to most of the applications of PUs. We can imagine mixing 431 carbon dioxide and carbon disulfide in order to have a mixture of cyclic carbonate on the same 432 molecule. Such process might avoid formulation step after the synthesis.

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439

440 6. Appendix A. Supplementary material

441 Supplementary data are associated with this article.

442

443 **7.** References

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