

Bromination/debromination-induced Thermal Crosslinking of 6FDA-Durene for Aggressive Gas Separations

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A new method for enhancing condensable gas-induced plasticization resistance of aromatic polyimides (PIs) as well as increasing the flux of gas penetrants with negligible selectivity loss was demonstrated via a so-called bromination/debromination-induced thermal crosslinking. Our newly developed crosslinking approach essentially loosened the polymeric chain packing of 6FDA-Durene PIs by forming ethylene crosslinking bonds, while retaining its rigid PI backbone. As the degree of crosslinking increased, the permeability increased with trivial selectivity loss. As a result, outstanding separation performances for CO₂/N₂, CO₂/CH₄ and C₃H₆/C₃H₈ gas pairs have been obtained, and most importantly, a high tolerance to CO₂ or C₃H₆ induced plasticization was observed.