

Table of contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Theory.....	2
2.1. Basic Information About Banana-Shaped Liquid Crystals	2
2.2. Structure and Properties of B ₁ and B ₂ Phase	3
2.3. The Switching Mechanism in Anticlinic - Antiferroelectric B ₂ Phase (SmC _A P _A)	5
2.4. Dielectric Relaxation	7
3. Experimental Methods	11
3.1. Electrooptic Methods in Investigating Liquid Crystals	11
3.1.1. Polarization microscopy	11
3.1.2. Electrooptic measurements	13
3.1.3. Spontaneous polarization measurements by reversal current method	14
3.2. DSC Scanning Calorimetry	16
3.3. Dielectric Spectroscopy, FDDS Method	17
4. Experimental Results and Discussion	22
4.1. Investigated Materials – Molecular Structure and Phase Diagrams	22
4.2. Phase Transitions Measurements by DSC Method	23
4.3. Texture Observations.....	28
4.4. Spontaneous Polarization Measurements	40
4.5. Dielectric Measurements	52
4.5.1. Dielectric relaxation processes	52
4.5.2. Conductivity.....	74
5. Conclusions	78
6. Literature	80