B. Tech Chemistry Lab: Experiment 5

Glow Stick Experiment through Organic Synthesis, and Chemiluminescence

Introduction: Chemiluminescence is the emission of light from a chemical reaction. Unlike fluorescence or phosphorescence, which require external energy sources like ultraviolet (UV) light to trigger the emission of light, chemiluminescence occurs naturally as a byproduct of certain chemical reactions.

The light emitted is usually in the form of a glow, and the process can occur in various substances, including fireflies, certain types of glow sticks, and even in some biochemical reactions used in research.

In a typical Glow Stick Experiment, when TCPO (1,2,3,4-Tetrachloro-6,7-dimethoxyisoquinoline) comes into contact with hydrogen peroxide, it breaks down, forming a high-energy intermediate molecule that can then transfer its energy to a fluorescent compound (Diphenyl anthracene), causing it to emit light.

Procedure:

Synthesis of TCPO:

- 1. Place a 20 mL Test tube on a stirrer with a magnetic bead inside. Add 500mg (1 equivalent) of **2,4,6-trichlorophenol**, cover with a septum, and purge with nitrogen gas.
- 2. Dissolve the trichlorophenol in <u>Dry Toluene</u> using a metallic needle. Add 0.35mL (1 equivalent) of <u>Triethylamine</u> and stir for 5 minutes under nitrogen conditions.

- 3. After stirring, add 0.1mL (0.5 equivalent) of <u>Oxalyl chloride</u> to the solution while in an <u>ice bath</u>. The solution will solidify.
- 4. Remove the flask from the stirrer, vacuum filter the solution, and wash the solid with **Methanol**. The product, **TCPO**, will be a white powder.

Let it glow:

- 1. Chemiluminescent Solution: Prepare a solution of <u>Sodium acetate (25mg)</u> and <u>Diphenyl anthracene (25mg)</u> (1:1) in <u>Diethyl phthalate (2ml)</u>.
- 2. Add 5 drops of <u>Hydrogen peroxide</u> to the solution. Add a small amount of synthesized **TCPO** to the chemiluminescent solution. A blue chemiluminescent glow will be observed (This part will be done once you are done with synthesis of TCPO and have the product).
- 3. Observe the glow (chemiluminescence) in the dark.