ABSTRACT
In this article, the relationship between molecular architecture and the formation of twist-bend phases is reviewed under the context of shape dependency. We conclude that the twist-bend phase is a universal phenomenon, which occurs in a wide variety of materials, for dimers through to main chain polymers. In the process, the chemical information on molecular design is effectively lost or irrelevant, and molecular topology takes precedence over electrostatic interactions in mesophase formation. As a consequence of this macro-scale material, engineering by shape alone becomes a possibility, potentially more phases may be realised, and entropy is anisotropic.

KEYWORDS
Anisotropic entropy; molecular grains; dense packing; nano/macro crossover

CONTACT John W. Goodby john.goodby@york.ac.uk

Time is not a scalar, but a variable in both reality and perception. It seems but a few minutes ago that George Gray suggested that I look at the reasons why molecules tilt over in layers in the smectic C phase, and if there was any potential for their uses in displays. His simple questions led to work on simulations of the molecules of materials that were found at the time to exhibit tilted smectic C, I and F phases, and ultimately to the unravelling of the structures of the smectic state of matter. With graph paper, compasses, protractor and access to a card reader and rudimentary computer, the mass inertia axes for a number of molecules were determined while in their all-trans conformations \cite{1,2}, and the rotational volumes of the molecules were depicted using reflection symmetry. Then the battle began; was the driving force for tilting electrostatic \cite{3} or steric \cite{4} or both? Although simplistic, the models and ensuing property–structure correlations were subsequently used as a basis for material design. By the early 1990s, there became a need at research centres such as DERA (Malvern, Worcestershire, UK) to estimate ‘material properties’ of targeted materials before costly synthesis was considered, and so began bridging the gap between the nano-molecular structures and those of the complex macroworld. Indeed, it is only recently that chemists have started to use modelling as a tool in the rational design of lead compounds (with optimum properties) in their synthetic programmes \cite{5,6}.

For want of a better expression, electrostatics appeared to lead the way not only in material design but also in determining mesophase formation and stability. Steric factors at a molecular level still proved useful, but integrated rotational shape lost favour. Therefore, it is quite surprising that the simulation of local dense packing, invoking shape entropy, without recourse to electrostatics has recently provided insights into the self-assembly of particles, including those of liquid crystals \cite{7–9}. Are there any experimental examples of such real systems or materials? The answer is probably no, partly because of the complexity and dynamic behaviours of liquid crystals. However, we have found one family of mesogens for which we think this could be true. These materials are ‘liminal’. They sit at the transformation of many structures and properties, for example, nano to macro, low molar mass to polymer, thermodynamic to kinetic, nematic to smectic, etc., and have the potential to give a new understanding of mesophase formation and properties. The materials exhibit the so-called ‘twist-bend’ phase.

At York we have been intrigued by the recent reports that liquid crystal dimers and dimesogens with relatively flexible but bent architectures exhibit twist-bend nematic (N_{TB}) mesophases \cite{10}. This ‘so-called’ nematic phase was shown by scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and freeze fracture to possess a local helical organisation of bent-shaped molecules, which twist around a heli-axis to give heliconical arrangement of pitch in the range of 7–9 nm. Although there is no positional ordering of the molecules, the periodicity resulting from the helix can be seen via...
polarised light microscopy [11] and in the defects formed by the liquid crystal phase on the macro-scale. Surprisingly, the bulk properties of this new phase are not commensurate with those observed for nematic or chiral nematics phases. For instance, from the syntheses of approximately 100 examples of materials [12] that exhibit the twist-bend phase, we find that there is no observable Brownian motion; the mesophase is highly viscous; the phase exhibits a mixed kinetic–thermodynamic transition from the nematic phase as studied by calorimetry, which is more in keeping with polymeric systems than those of low-molar-mass materials; related oligomers [13] and polymers [14] also exhibit the twist-bend phase; and most revealing of all, there is little or no response to applied electric fields in comparison to nematic or chiral nematic phases, which readily exhibit low-voltage dielectric responses [11]. Moreover, early reports suggesting that the twist-bend phase is unique and limited to only a few materials does not hold true because the variety of materials, with differing molecular structures, that exhibit the twist-bend phase is large [12]. Thus, it is doubtful that the twist-bend phase is truly nematic, but is associated with a new and general form of soft matter [11].

In order to develop property–structure correlations for the twist-bend phase, we examined in detail such phases formed by the materials given by the general structure in Figure 1. These ranged from dimesogens to polymesogens, where we define the repeat as being a mesogenic unit, which is similar to the notation used for peptides where the amino acids may be identical (polymeric, as in polyaniline) or different [15,16].

In developing property–structure correlations, we investigated the relationship between mesophase stability and bend angle. We found that an angle of between 110° and 130° is required to support the formation of the twist-bend phase, irrespective of specific bond angles (e.g. between methylene or methyleneoxy units, etc.) or the dipole moments or polarisabilities of the various functional groups in a molecular architecture [17]. A bend angle of near to 120° gives the most temperature stable twist-bend phase; see Table 1 for a small sample of five related materials. The local circular packing corresponds to approximately six overlapping molecules per twist of the local helical structure of the phase, which is similar in number to the estimation of five to six molecules per twist of 360° observed by SEM (see Figure 2).

Packing six molecules in two dimensions produces either an intercalated structure or a circular arrangement with a packing void at its centre (Figure 2(a)). This second arrangement allows for an expulsion of the bend into the third dimension (Figure 2(b)), thereby minimising the free volume, increasing the packing density, and randomising the positions of the molecules about a heli-axis (Figure 2(c)), which consequently increases the entropy and reduces the free energy. In comparison to an intercalated structuring, this arrangement has more advantages in terms of the energetics. It is also important to note that the organisation is only dependent on the bent architectures of the molecules and not to their conformational structures. Moreover, with any twisted organisation there is the possibility of two twists at right angles to one another, and in the case of the pitch length for the principal helical structure, for the materials investigated the results are all very similar, and in the 8–9 nm range, no matter what the details of the molecular aspect ratios are or the electrostatic properties [10,18–21]. Overall, the results indicate that molecular topology determines the twist-bend phase stability and the pitch length.

Taking the concept further of shape being the primary determinant in the formation of the twist-bend phase, we compared the transition temperatures for the nematic

![Figure 1](image-url). General structures of materials that exhibit the twist-bend phase.
phase to the isotropic liquid, and the nematic phase to the twist-bend phase. A linear dependency was found across a range of nearly 100 di-, tri-, tetra-, hexa-, oligo- and polymeric-mesogens (see Figure 3), composed of various functional groups and motifs, as shown in Figure 3. It should be noted that there is a little scattering of the data for some oligomers at high temperatures, which is due to decomposition [22,34]. The linear behaviour indicates that the chemical information for these materials is of little importance in affecting the condensation of the system in the formation of the twist-bend phase. In conventional materials, there is always a variation in the relationships between the clearing points to the isotropic liquid and subsequent phase transitions obtained on cooling because

Figure 2. Illustration of the effect of the bend angle on the thermal stability of the twist bend phase in relation to molecular shape. The space filling molecular shapes were generated via density functional theory simulations (DFT) using the B3LYP function and the 6-31G (d) basis set for the dimesogens. (Note the greyscale is inverted for the terminal groups to demonstrate molecular orientation.)

Figure 3. Two-dimensional packing of six bent dimers with bend angles of 120° (a); expulsion of the packing into the third dimension to give a twisted structure (b); and the formations of a helical structure with minimisation of the free volume (c).
The transitions are dependent on the intermolecular interactions coupled with the degree of amphiphilicity. Therefore, if we compare the results for homologous materials with odd methylene parity (bent shape shown in Figure 3) with examples of some similar materials of even parity (rod-like), we find that the relationship between the liquid to nematic phase and the nematic to smectic A phase or nematic to smectic C phase transitions for the even parity materials is not linear but randomly scattered, as shown in Figure 4(a,b) [35,36].

The results so far suggest that twist-bend materials exhibit some properties similar to those of polymers; thus, calorimetric studies were used to elucidate further the thermodynamic aspects of the N to $N_{TB}$ phase transition [11]. Figure 5 shows the nematic to twist-bend phase transition with respect to the fall in temperature ($^\circ$C min$^{-1}$). Normally, as a scan rate is increased, the peak shape sharpens as the resolution improves. However, for 1,11-di-(1″-cyanobiphenyl-4-yl)undecane (CB11CB) the transition becomes second order and then that of a glass, i.e. similar to that of a polymer. Thus, the slower the scan rate, the more time the twist-bend phase has to form an organised (quasi-crystalline) structure, i.e. a helix, and the free volume decreases, whereas the faster the scan, the less time is available, and the more disorganised is the structure (mosaic) of the phase and the free volume increases. This indicates that there is a reasonable degree of kinetic behaviour at the phase transition in addition to thermodynamic. Consequently, for faster cooling rates, this results in an easier response to an applied electric field near to the phase transition. In addition, the extent of the diffuse molecular motions associated with the phase transition is clearly seen on cooling in the microscopy studies of free-standing films [11].

Flory and Fox [37,38] demonstrated for polymer systems that the glass transition is linked to the melting point and directly to the free volume, at which point the...
free space available for molecular motions is at a minimum. The differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) results therefore support the hypothesis that the nature of the N to N\textsubscript{TB} phase transition is associated with the condensation of the structure determined by the free volume and dense packing of the molecules, which are dependent on molecular shape. This treatment, coupled with the previous study, indicates that the molecules can be considered as molecular grains, where topology under the constraint of the minimisation of volume is the determinant for phase condensation and phase transition. Consequently, these studies demonstrate that the phase transition to the twist-bend phase will be universal, and will be observed for many families of molecular and macromolecular materials with differing structures polymorphisms, degree of polymerisation and dispersities.

Thus, apart from the reports of the twist-bend phase being exhibited by dimer and oligomers, as might be expected, the phase can be linked to macromolecular materials such as main chain polymers, lyotropic polypeptides and flagella. For example, Ungar et al. [14] reported nematic to nematic phase transitions for thermotropic random copolymers (included in the results in Figure 3) that possess odd-parity numbers of methylene units in the linking chains between the aromatic units. Although it is not clear that the lower temperature nematic phase is a twist-bend phase the possibility was speculated upon recently [39]. Further, the liquid crystal phase of poly(γ-benzyl L-glutamate) exhibits microscopic textures that are almost identical to those of the twist-bend phase. Livolant and Bouligand indicated that the phase was composed of polymer fibres that are looped thereby forming two backbones twisted together, which then form hexagonal packing arrays [40]. Additionally, Barry et al. reported a first-order phase transition driven by entropy in suspensions of helical flagella from an isotropic liquid into a liquid-crystalline state that possessed novel chiral symmetry [41]. Optical textures of this phase consist of striped patterns with alternating light and dark regions, which correspond to differing director orientations. Fluorescent labelling reveals that the flagella are in phase with one another, and despite the lack of positional order there is long-range 'phase' ordering. It was proposed that the formation of a conical phase is driven by simple packing constraints, with the excluded volume between two helices being significantly larger when they are out-of-phase with respect to one another than when they are in phase and so minimisation of the excluded volume dictates a preference for in-phase packing leading to the emergence of a conical mesophase.

Consequently, in forming a helical structure, there is also the possibility of forming fibres, with multiple strands, as shown in Figure 6, and examples of a dimesogen and a tetramesogen are shown in Figure 7. The physical evidence for the formation of fibres is demonstrated by thermal polarised light microscopy as shown in Figure 8(a). In this photomicrograph, the presence of a linear defect is seen across the bottom third of the picture. The defect line has upper and lower domains with short lines at an angle of 30° to the normal to the horizontal line. These two domains are left- and right-handed helices, which are on average 5 μm in width, with the short lines corresponding to...
the change in the director field relative to the polarisers. Figure 8(b) shows CB11CB in a 5 \( \mu \)m cell coated with antiparallel buffed polyimide, with the domains showing a folded arrangement typical of the folding often seen by polymers, but on a much larger scale.

This structuring is simply the twisting of one helical strand about another (or several others). However, the centres of mass of the molecules along the strands need not be commensurate, and therefore the only periodic order associated with the pitch length is determined by
molecular topology, hence the result that the measured pitch values are similar. Furthermore, in the fibrous structure, the molecules are densely close-packed, thereby minimising the free volume. Along the heli-axes of the strands, the molecules will move more freely in a spiralling way than they can across the fibre axes. This means that the viscosity is also anisotropic. Experimentally, this has been reported for the viscosities of molecular (dimesogens) and macro-molecular (flagella) materials [41]. Moreover, helical flagella were observed to diffuse along the helical axis in a manner akin to a ‘nut on a bolt’ with diffusion being significantly faster parallel to this axis with respect to perpendicular diffusion. Recent NMR diffusion experiments similarly have demonstrated anisotropic diffusion in the twist-bend phase of CB7CB [42]. Thus, the ease of diffusion of the molecules in a spiralling manner along the heli-axis means that the entropy will also increase in the same direction because of the lack or positional ordering, thereby potentially reducing the free energy.

From these studies, we conclude that the twist-bend phase is a universal phenomenon, which occurs in a wide variety of materials, and over length scales greater than nano for dimers through to main chain polymers. In the process, the chemical information is effectively lost or irrelevant, and molecular topology takes precedence in mesophase formation. Following are some possibilities that arise from this hypothesis:

(1) Given that dimers have the smallest molecules that support the formation of the twist-bend phase, there appears to be a crossover from nanoscience to macroscience at around 50–100 nm. Furthermore, the changeover could be associated with the relationship between surface area versus volume of the molecules, with the surface area being dominant at the nanoscale, and the volume dominant at larger length scales. At nano-length scales, the electrostatic interactions will be important, whereas for the macro-regime the spatial shape is important.

(2) In the nanoworld, molecular materials form structures based on allowable electrostatic interactions permitted by steric structure, whereas shape and minimisation of the free volume determines the formation of condensed phases via the density of packing. This applies to molecular shape, conformational structure and distortion of shape (as exemplified by dendritic and colloidal liquid crystals). Indeed, shape in terms of a quasi-solid entity is effectively a distortion of space itself.

(3) Molecules appear as molecular grains in the macroworld, and have properties similar to those of granular matter.

(4) Periodic ordering in macrosystems does not need to have periodicity based on molecular entities, but periodicity based on translational order such as pitch length as for the twist-bend and twist-grain phases, or arrangements of defects as for columnar and blue phases. At these length scales, the structures effectively will be crystalline (soft), and as such they will exhibit phase diagrams similar to those of crystal systems rather than comiscibility as found for liquid crystals. For example, discotic nematics should be comiscible, whereas columnar discotics may not.

(5) Phase transitions are dependent on kinetic changes as well as thermodynamic, and glass transitions could occur as a function of scan rate.

(6) Entropy may be directional, and therefore so too the free energy.

(7) Anisotropic properties can be determined by spatial confinement as opposed to electrostatic interactions.

(8) These possibilities could have consequences for other non-liquid-crystal systems such as colloids, metamaterials, dendrimers, biomaterials, bioparticles, etc., and will thereby allow
mesoscopic engineering of matter at the interface between the nano- and macro-regimes.

In summary, over 25 years ago I looked at some dimers for Luckhurst, and thought they might exhibit an edge dislocation phase, but my reason for writing this article is that there now appears to be some new basic scientific concepts involved with the formation of the twist-bend phase, which do not conform to the conventional views of liquid crystal structures and properties, and possibly to our understanding of mesoscale systems. May be Luckhurst was correct when he wrote the following:

Liquid Crystal dimers and trimers exhibit a range of unusual properties, which are fascinating in their own right, and which also parallel those found for semi-flexible main-chain liquid crystal polymers. This close similarity suggests that dimers and oligomers should form good model systems for their polymeric counterparts. [43]

And indeed may be we are seeing the possibility of a new field of ‘the engineering of granular, molecular matter’ developing.

**Acknowledgements**

I would like to give my gratitude to Drs Cowling, Saez, Moore, Mandle, Davis and Sims for their continual support, their inputs into our developing ideas, and their numerous discussions. I am also indebted to the EPSRC for its continued support of my research through the following grants, EP/J007714/1, EP/K039660/1 and EP/M020584/1. I am also grateful to Prof CT Imrie and Dr SJ Cowling for arranging the publication of this compilation of articles.

**Disclosure statement**

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author.

**Funding**

The author is indebted to the EPSRC for its continued support of my research through the following grants: EP/J007714/1, EP/K039660/1 and EP/M020584/1.

**References**

[1] Goodby JW. Smectic liquid crystals [PhD thesis]. University of Hull; 1977.
[2] Goodby JW. Smectic polymorphism and molecular shape - the orthogonal phases. Mol Cryst Liq Cryst. 1981;75:179–199.
[3] McMillan WL. Simple molecular theory of the smectic C phase. Phys Rev A. 1973;8:1921–1929.
[4] Wulf A. Steric model for smectic-C phase. Phys Rev A. 1975;11:365–375.
[5] Sims MT, Abbott LC, Cowling SJ, et al. Principal molecular axis and transition dipole moment orientations in liquid crystal systems: an assessment based on studies of guest anthraquinone dyes in a nematic host. Phys Chem Chem Phys. 2017;19:813–827.
[6] Sims MT, Abbott LC, Cowling SJ, et al. Dyes in liquid crystals: experimental and computational studies of a guest-host system using a combined DFT and MD approach. Chem Eur J. 2015;21:10123–10130.
[7] van Anders G, Klotsa D, Ahmed NK, et al. Understanding shape entropy through local dense packing. PNAS. 2014;111:E4812–E4821.
[8] Greco C, Ferrarini A. Entropy-driven chiral order in a system of achiral bent particles. Phys Rev Lett. 2015;115:147801.
[9] Vaupotic N, Curk S, Osipov MA, et al. Short-range smectic fluctuations and the flexoelectric model of modulated nematic liquid crystals. Phys Rev E. 2016;93:022704.
[10] Chen D, Porada JH, Hooper JB, et al. Chiral heliconical ground state of nanoscale pitch in a nematic liquid crystal of achiral molecular dimers. PNAS. 2013;110:15931–15936.
[11] Mandle RJ, Davis EJ, Archbold CT, et al. Microscopy studies of the nematic N_{1/2} phase of 1,11-di-(1’-cyanobiphenyl-4-yl)undecane. J Mater Chem C. 2014;2:556–566.
[12] Mandle RJ. The dependency of twist-bend nematic liquid crystals on molecular structure: a progression from dimers to trimers, oligomers and polymers. Soft Matter. 2016;12:7883–7901.
[13] Mandle RJ, Goodby JW. Progression from nano to macro science in soft matter systems: dimers to trimers and oligomers in twist bend liquid crystals. RSC Adv. 2016;6:34885–34893.
[14] Ungar G, Percec V, Zuber M. Liquid-crystalline polyethers based on conformational isomerism. 20. nematic-nematic transition in polyethers and copolyethers based on 1-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-(2-R-4-hydroxyphenyl)ethane with R = fluoro, chloro, and methyl and flexible spacers containing an odd number of methylene units. Macromolecules. 1992;25:75–80.
[15] Goodby JW, Saez IM, Cowling SJ, et al. Molecular complexity and the control of self-organising processes. Liq Cryst. 2009;36:567–605.
[16] Saez IM, Goodby JW. Supermolecular liquid crystals, liquid crystalline functional assemblies and their supra-molecular structures. In: Mingos DMP, Kato T, editors. Liquid crystalline functional assemblies and their supra-molecular structures. Berlin: Springer-Verlag; 2008. p. 1–62. DOI:10.1007/430_2007_077.
[17] Mandle RJ, Archbold CT, Sarju J, et al. The dependency of nematic and twist-bend mesophase formation on bend angle. Nature Sci Rep. 2016;6(1–12):36682.
[18] Borshch V, Kim Y-K, Xiang J, et al. Nematic twist-bend phase with nano scale modulation of molecular orientation. Nature Comm. 2013;4:2635.
[19] Paterson DA, Gao M, Kim Y-K, et al. Understanding the twist-bend nematic phase: the characterisation of 1-(4-cyanobiphenyl-40-yloxy)-6-(4-cyanobiphenyl-40-yl)hexane (CB6OCB) and comparison with CB7OCB. Soft Matter. 2016;12:6827–6840.
[20] Zhu C, Tuchband MR, Young A, et al. Resonant carbon K-edge soft x-ray scattering from lattice-free heliconical
molecular ordering: soft dilative elasticity of the twist-bend liquid crystal phase. Phys Rev Lett. 2016;116:147803.
[21] Wang Y, Singh G, Agra-Kooijman DM, et al. Room temperature heliconical twist-bend nematic liquid crystal. Cryst Eng Comm. 2015;17:2778–2782.
[22] Mandle RJ, Goodby JW. Does topology dictate the incidence twist-bend phase? Insights gained from novel, unsymmetrical bimesogens. Chem Eur J. 2015;21:18456–18464.
[23] Chen D, Nakata M, Shao R, et al. Twist-bend heliconical chiral nematic liquid crystal phase of an achiral rigid bent-core mesogen. Phys Rev E. 2014;89:022506.
[24] Meyer C, Luckhurst GR, Dozov I. The temperature dependence of the heliconical tilt angle in the twist-bend nematic phase of the odd dimer CB7CB. J Mater Chem C. 2015;3:318–328.
[25] Zhang Z, Panov VP, Nagaraj M, et al. Twist-bend heliconical chiral nematic liquid crystal phase of an achiral rigid bent-core mesogen. Phys Rev E. 2014;89:022506.
[26] Jokissari JP, Luckhurst GR, Timimi BA, et al. Twist-bend nematic phase of the liquid crystal dimer CB7CB: orientational order and conical angle determined by $^{129}$Xe and $^2$H NMR spectroscopy. Liq Cryst. 2015;42:708–721.
[27] Emsley JW, Lelli M, Joy H, et al. Similarities and differences between molecular order in the nematic and twist-bend nematic phases of a symmetric liquid crystal dimer. Phys Chem Chem Phys. 2016;18:9419–9430.
[28] Pardaev SA, Shamid SM, Tamba MG, et al. Second harmonic light scattering induced by defects in the twist-bend nematic phase of liquid crystal dimers. Soft Matter. 2016;12:4472–4482.
[29] Abberley JP, Jansze SM, Walker R, et al. Structure-property relationships in twist-bend nematogens: the influence of terminal groups. Liq Cryst. 2017;44(1):68–83.
[30] Archbold CT, Andrews JL, Mandle RJ, et al. Effect of the linking unit on the twist-bend nematic phase in liquid crystal dimers: a comparative study of two homologous series of methylene- and ether-linked dimers. Liq Cryst. 2017;44(1):84–92.
[31] Ivsic T, Baumeister U, Dokli I, et al. Sensitivity of the N-TB phase formation to the molecular structure of imino-linked dimers. Liq Cryst. 2017;44(1):93–105.
[32] Dawood AA, Grossel MC, Luckhurst GR, et al. Twist-bend nematics, liquid crystal dimers, structure-property relations. Liq Cryst. 2017;44(1):106–126.
[33] Paterson DA, Abberley JP, Harrison WT, et al. Cyanobiphenyl-based liquid crystal dimers and the twist-bend nematic phase. Liq Cryst. 2017;44(1):127–146.
[34] Simpson FP, Mandle RJMoore JN. Investigating the cusp between the nano- and macro-sciences in super-molecular liquid-crystalline twist-bend nematogens. J Mater Chem C. 2017;5:5102–5110.
[35] Attard GS, Date RW, Imrie CT, et al. Non-symmetric dimeric liquid crystals: the preparation and properties of the α-(4-cyanobiphenyl-4′-yloxy)-ω-(4-n-alkylbenzenesulfonyl)alkanes. Liq Cryst. 1994;16:529–581.
[36] Heggulstoy CM, Darda MB, Montani RS, et al. Symmetric bent-shaped liquid crystal dimers showing transitions between optically uniaxial and biaxial smectic phases. Liq Cryst. 2015;42:1013–1023.
[37] Fox TG, Flory PJ. Second-order transition temperatures and related properties of polystyrene. I. Influence of molecular weight. J Appl Phys. 1950;21:581–591.
[38] Gibbs JH, DiMarzio EA. Nature of the glass transition and the glassy state. J Chem Phys. 1958;28:373–383.
[39] Mandle RJ, Davis EJ, Archbold CT, et al. Apolar bimesogens and the incidence of the twist-bend nematic phase. Chem Eur J. 2015;21:8158–8167.
[40] Livolant F, Bouligand Y. Liquid crystalline phases given by helical biological polymers (DNA, PBLG and Xanthan), columnar textures. J Phys. 1986;47:1813–1827.
[41] Barry E, Hensel Z, Dogic Z, et al. Entropy-driven formation of a chiral liquid-crystalline phase of helical filaments. Phys Rev Lett. 2006;96(1–4):018305.
[42] Cifelli M, Domenici V, Dvinskikh SV, et al. The twist-bend nematic phase: translational self-diffusion and biaxiality studied by $^1$H nuclear magnetic resonance diffusometry. Liq Cryst. 2016;44:204–218.
[43] Luckhurst GR. Liquid crystal dimers and oligomers: experiment and theory. Macromol Symp. 1995;96:1–26.