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New structural types of carbocyanines with two chromophore groups: synthesis and properties

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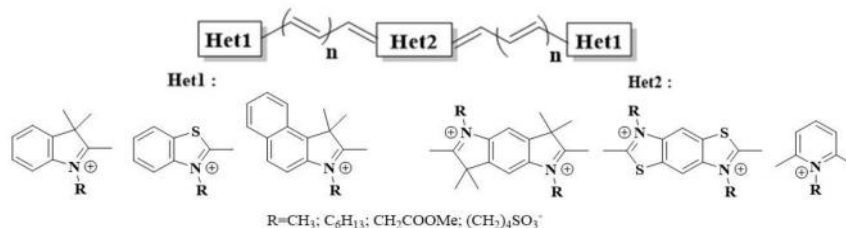
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Due to their highly effective fluorescent properties, carbocyanine dyes are successfully used in biology and medicine to investigate the mechanisms of action of drugs, as well as a means of early diagnosis and as therapeutic agents. The carbocyanines containing two chromophore fragments are the least studied in this area [1]. The structure of the dye containing four heterocyclic cores allows to significantly expand the combinatorial possibilities for the directed design of the structures in order to optimize the photophysical and pharmacophoric properties.

In the present investigation, the synthesis of a series of new biscarbocyanine dyes based on a combination of heterocycles of different structural types and hydrophilic and lipophilic substituents at nitrogen atoms was performed. It has been shown that the photophysical properties (absorption maximum, extinction coefficient, fluorescence quantum yield, etc.) depend both on the replacement of the heterocyclic system and on the variation of functional groups in the substituent at the nitrogen atom. For example, it was shown on the HCT116 cell line that dyes containing hydrophobic alkyl groups have pronounced cytotoxicity, and the introduction of hydrophilic sulfo groups into a substituent at the nitrogen atom leads to sharp decrease of the cytotoxicity.



References

[1] O.P. Klochko, I.A. Fedyunyayeva, S.U. Khabuseva, O.M. Semenova, E.A. Terpetschnig, L.D. Patsenker, *Dyes and Pigments*. **2010**, 85, 7–15.

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