



Novel Biaxial Smectic Phases.

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An asymmetric bent-core liquid crystal mesogen with only one tail was studied by optical polarizing microscopy, differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), x-ray diffraction, electro-optic investigation, freeze fracture transmission electron microscopy, and freely suspended film method. This mesogen shows two novel biaxial smectic phases: a low-temperature high-polarization SmAP F and a high-temperature low-polarization SmAPF. The SmAPF phase is very similar to SmAPF, except that molecular dipoles are not as well aligned as in the SmAPF phase resulting in a lower polarization. The smectic layers exhibit layer undulations due to the polarization splay. Despite the similarities between the SmAP F and SmAPF phase, the SmAPF shows bistable switching while the SmAPF shows V-shaped switching.

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