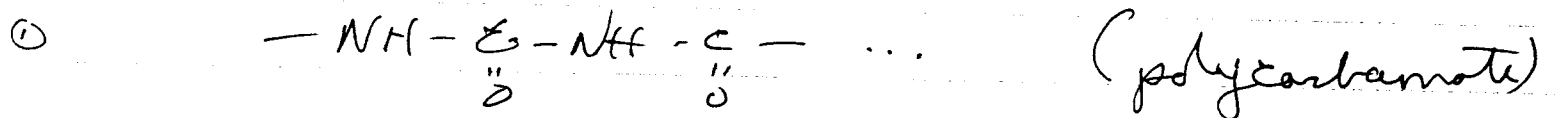


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John Kiriyan —

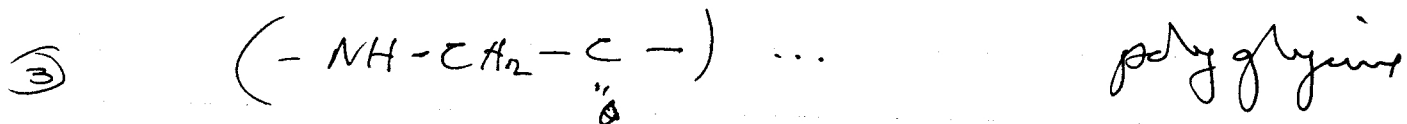
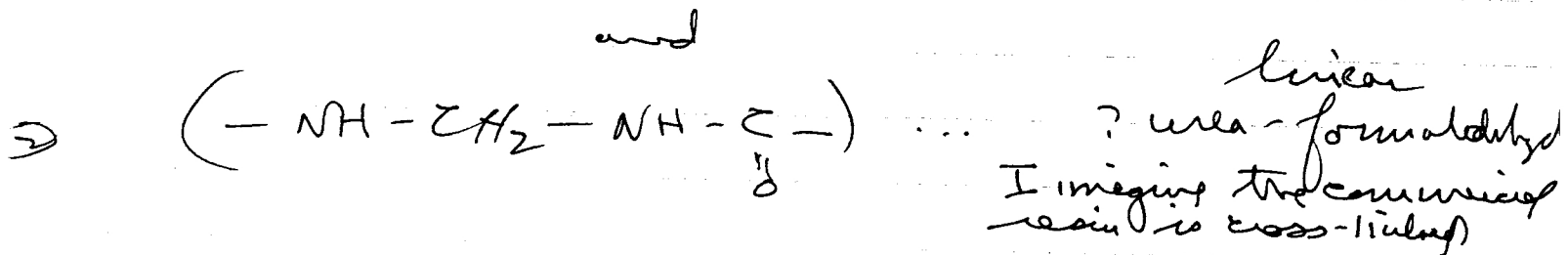
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MAR 17 1989

I have been speculating about very simple polymers that may have been the backbone structures for the earliest stages of chemical evolution (of life.) I am impressed by cosmic abundance arguments that $C \sim N \sim O$ and $\gg P$, etc.

Some candidates seem to me to include:



and



With respect to 1 and 2, do you know anything of their chemical properties; stability in water etc.

for all 3, do you know of structural studies? Will they form fibers? Double-stranded structures?

J