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(54) **Title:** A PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF METHACRYLIC ACID AND ITS DERIVATIVES AND POLYMERS  
PRODUCED THEREFROM

(57) **Abstract:** A process for the production of methacrylic acid or esters thereof by the base catalysed decarboxylation of at least one dicarboxylic acid selected from itaconic, citraconic or mesaconic acid or mixtures thereof in an aqueous reaction medium is described. The decarboxylation is carried out at a temperature in the range from 200°C and up to 239°C. The methacrylic acid is isolated from the aqueous reaction medium by a purification process which does not include introducing an organic solvent to the aqueous reaction medium for solvent extraction of the methacrylic acid into an organic phase. A method of preparing polymers or copolymers of methacrylic acid or methacrylic acid esters is also described.



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