



(51) International Patent Classification:

D21H 25/06 (2006.01) D21H 17/07 (2006.01)
 B65D 65/40 (2006.01) D21H 17/11 (2006.01)
 D21H 27/10 (2006.01) D21H 17/14 (2006.01)
 D21H 11/16 (2006.01) D21H 17/00 (2006.01)
 D21H 11/18 (2006.01) D21H 21/16 (2006.01)
 D21H 11/20 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/IB2013/001342

(22) International Filing Date:

25 June 2013 (25.06.2013)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

13/531,939 25 June 2012 (25.06.2012) US

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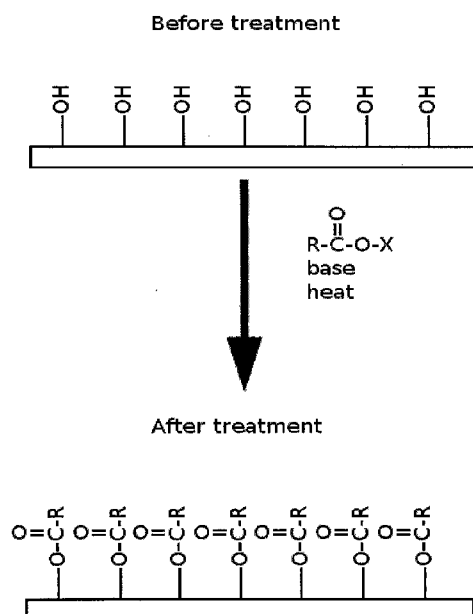
(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: METHODS FOR BIODEGRADABLE DERIVATIZATION OF CELLULOSIC SURFACES



(57) Abstract: The present invention describes methods of treating cellulosic materials with a composition that provides increased hydrophobicity to such materials without sacrificing the biodegradability thereof. The methods as disclosed provide for esterification of available hydroxyl groups on cellulosic materials, where such hydroxyl groups are "masked" by bulky organic chains, including that the disclosure provides products made by such methods. The materials thus treated display higher hydrophobicity, barrier function, and mechanical properties, and may be used in any application where such features are desired.

FIGURE 1