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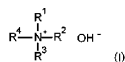
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(71) Applicant: KURITA WATER INDUSTRIES LTD.  
[JP/JP]; 10-1, Nakano 4-chome, Nakano-ku, Tokyo,  
1640001 (JP).(72) Inventors: URSCHHEY Michael; c/o Kurita Europe  
GmbH, Giulinistrasse 2, Ludwigshafen, 67065 (DE). SCH-  
MALOHR Ingo; c/o Kurita Europe GmbH, Giulinistrasse 2,  
Ludwigshafen, 67065 (DE). SCHMIDT Philipp; c/o Ku-  
rita Europe GmbH, Giulinistrasse 2, Ludwigshafen, 67065  
(DE).(74) Agent: SHIGENO, Tsuyoshi et al.; Nissin bldg., 9F, 5-10,  
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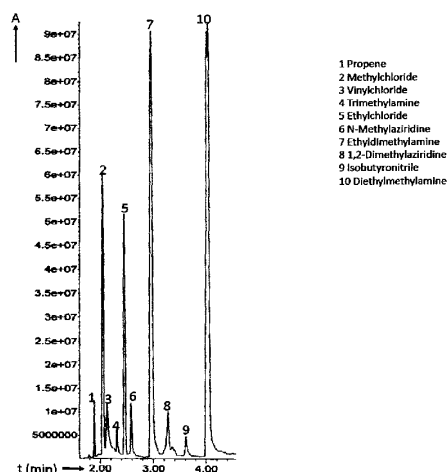
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## (54) Title: Method for Reducing or Preventing Corrosion or Fouling Caused by Acidic Compounds



[Fig. 1]



(57) Abstract: A method for reducing or preventing corrosion or fouling in an apparatus for carrying out a chemical process, where corrosion or fouling is caused by acidic compounds present in the chemical process, which comprises the addition of at least one quaternary ammonium hydroxide of the formula (I) to the apparatus, wherein the chemical process is carried out: [Chem. 1] where  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  are each independently  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $R^4$  is inter alia  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$  alkyl, benzyl, monocycloalkyl having 5, 6, 7 or 8 carbon atoms, bicycloalkyl having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, tricycloalkyl having 7 to 10 carbon atoms, where monocycloalkyl, bicycloalkyl and tricycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted by 1 or 2 methyl groups, or tri- $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl ammonium groups.  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  together with the nitrogen atom may also form a 5 or 6-membered, saturated nitrogen heterocycle, which is unsubstituted or carries 1 or 2 methyl groups; and/or  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  together with the nitrogen atom may also form a 5 or 6-membered, saturated nitrogen heterocycle, which is unsubstituted or carries 1 or 2 methyl groups.