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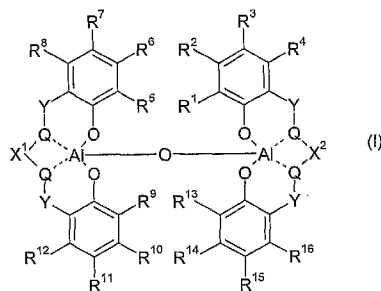
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(57) **Abstract:** A dimeric aluminium(salen) catalyst of formula I: herein: Y-Q is CR_{C1}=N or CR_{C1}R_{C2}-NR_{N1}, where R_{C1}, R_{C2} and R_{N1} are independently selected from H, halo, optionally substituted C₁₋₂₀ alkyl, optionally substituted C₅₋₂₀ aryl, ether and nitro; each of the substituents R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, and R¹⁶, is independently selected from H, halo, optionally substituted C₁₋₂₀ alkyl, optionally substituted C₅₋₂₀ aryl, optionally substituted C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl, ether and nitro; X₁ and X₂ are independently either (i) a C₂₋₅ alkylene chain, which is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from C₁₋₄ alkyl and C₅₋₇ aryl, or a C₁₋₃ bisoxyalkylene chain, which is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from C₁₋₄ alkyl and C₅₋₇ aryl or (ii) represent a divalent group selected from C₅₋₇ arylene, C₅₋₇ cyclic alkylene and C₃₋₇ heterocyclylene, which may be optionally substituted; (i) (a) at least one of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, and R¹⁶ is selected from L-A, where L is a single bond or a C₁₋₁₀ alkylene group and A is an ammonium group paired with a counterion selected from Cl, Br and I; and/or (b) at least one of X¹ and X² is a divalent C₃₋₇ heterocyclene group, containing a ring atom which is a quaternary nitrogen atom paired with a counterion selected from Cl, Br and I; and/or (c) at least one of X¹ and X² is a C₂₋₅ alkylene chain or a C₁₋₃ bisoxyalkylene chain, substituted by a group -Q-L-A, where Q is either -C(=O)-O-, -C(=O)-NH-, or a single bond; and/or (ii) (a) one of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, and R¹⁶ is L-A', where L is as defined above and A' is an ammonium linking group bound to a solid support and paired with a counterion selected from Cl, Br and I; or (b) one of X¹ and X² is a divalent C₃₋₇ heterocyclene group, containing a ring atom which is a quaternary nitrogen forming part of an ammonium linking group bound to a solid support and paired with a counterion selected from Cl, Br and I; or (c) one of X¹ and X² is a C₂₋₅ alkylene chain or a C₁₋₃ bisoxyalkylene chain, substituted by a group -Q-L-A'.