

ABSTRACT

One purpose of the present invention is to provide a water-absorbent resin having excellent water absorption characteristics and being capable of improving the shape-retaining characteristics of a water-absorbent material when used in the water-absorbent material. A water-absorbent resin obtained by performing reversed phase suspension polymerization of a water-soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer in a hydrocarbon dispersion medium, using a radical polymerization initiator, said resin being capable of having both excellent absorption performance and shape retention in a water-absorbent material using the water-absorbent resin, as a result of fulfilling the conditions of: (1) having a water-retention capacity of physiological saline of at least 38 g/g; (2) having a water-absorption capacity of physiological saline under a load of 4.14 kPa of at least 15 ml/g; and (3) having a $\tan\delta$ of a 50-fold swollen gel of at least 2.10×10^{-2} .