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(54) Title: CATALYST COMPOSITION AND PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF COPOLYMERS OF CARBON MONOXIDE AND AN OLEFINICALLY UNSATURATED COMPOUND (57) Abstract A catalyst composition which is based upon (a) a source of nickel cations, and (b) a bidentate ligand of the general formula (I): $R^1R^2M^1-R-M^2R^3R^4$ wherein M^1 and M^2 represent independently phosphorus, nitrogen, arsenic or antimony, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 represent independently optionally substituted hydrocarbyl groups on the understanding that at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 represent a substituted aryl group, and R represents a bivalent bridging group of which the bridge consists of at most two bridging atoms, and a process for the preparation of copolymers of carbon monoxide and an olefinically unsaturated compound comprising contacting the monomers in the presence of the said catalyst composition.		