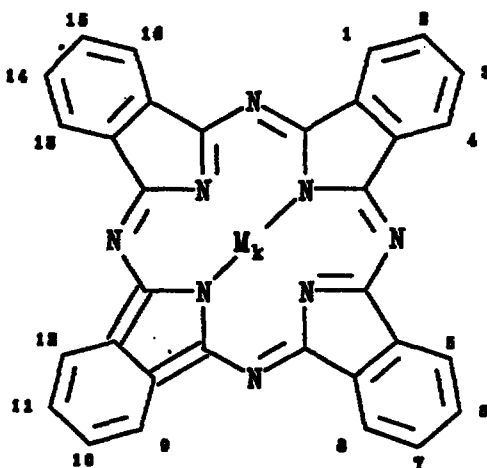


ABSTRACT

POLYSUBSTITUTED PHTHALOCYANINES

The use of substituted phthalocyanines for the generation of singlet oxygen in which at least one of the peripheral carbon atoms in the 1-16 positions of the phthalocyanine nucleus (M_kPc) of Formula (1):



Formula (1)

wherein:

M is selected from H, metal, halometal, oxymetal and hydroxymetal; and

k is the inverse of $\frac{1}{2}$ of the valency of M;

is linked via an oxygen atom to an aromatic radical and the remaining peripheral carbon atoms are unsubstituted or substituted by any combination of atoms or groups and sulphonated derivatives thereof provided that the phthalocyanine absorbs electromagnetic radiation at a wavelength from 650 nm to 800 nm.