



(51) International Patent Classification:

C08F 8/24 (2006.01) C08F 12/32 (2006.01)
 C08F 8/32 (2006.01) C07D 307/00 (2006.01)
 C08F 12/16 (2006.01) C07D 307/12 (2006.01)
 C08F 12/28 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/SG2014/000198

(22) International Filing Date:

6 May 2014 (06.05.2014)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

201303559-7 8 May 2013 (08.05.2013) SG

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: SYNTHESIS OF A SUBSTITUTED FURAN

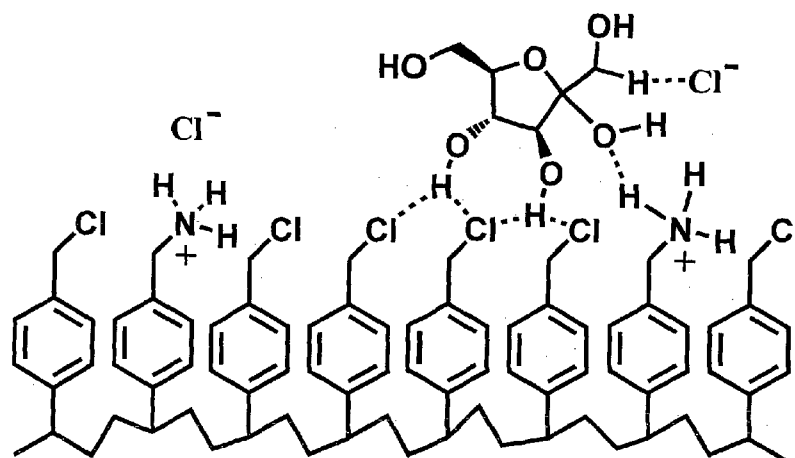


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a polymer comprising an aliphatic backbone having a plurality of aromatic rings bonded thereon, said plurality of aromatic rings comprising a first aromatic ring type that has an alkyl halide group substitution on the aromatic ring and a second aromatic ring type that has an optionally substituted ammonium halide group substitution on the aromatic ring. The present invention also provides a method for making an optionally substituted furan, the method comprising the step of subjecting a sugar to a dehydration reaction in the presence of a catalyst comprising said polymer.