CLAIMS

1. A silica-titania composite oxide powder having an average particle diameter D (μm) in a range of 0.1 μm or more to 3.0 μm or less measured by a laser light scattering method, an average refractive index of 1.47 or more at a measurement wavelength of 589 nm, and a minimum absorbance S measured from a dispersion of 30 mass% silica-titania composite oxide particles in a liquid having the same refractive index as the average refractive index, the minimum absorbance S satisfying the following relationship:

$$S < 0.026 - 0.008 \times D.$$

2. The silica-titania composite oxide powder of claim 1, wherein a ratio of particles having a particle diameter of 5 μm or more measured by a Coulter counter method is 200 ppm or less on a number basis.

3. A method of producing silica-titania composite oxide particles using an alkoxide of silicon and an alkoxide of titanium as materials, the method comprising:

mixing the alkoxide of silicon and the alkoxide of titanium to prepare a composite alkoxide material;

reacting the composite alkoxide material in the presence of water and a nitrogen-containing basic catalyst to produce particles;

separating the produced particles from a liquid component;

reducing a nitrogen content of the particles;

drying the particles; and

firing the dried particles, wherein

the particles after the drying and before the firing has ~~a~~ the nitrogen content satisfying

the following:

Nitrogen content (mass%) < 0.19 × Ti content + 0.35

where the Ti content is the content of Ti expressed in % when the total amount of Ti and Si on a mol basis is 100%.

4. A method of producing silica-titania composite oxide particles using an alkoxide of silicon and an alkoxide of titanium as materials, the method comprising:

mixing the alkoxide of silicon and the alkoxide of titanium to prepare a composite alkoxide material;

reacting the composite alkoxide material in the presence of water and a nitrogen-containing basic catalyst to produce particles;

reducing a nitrogen content of the particles;

separating the produced particles from a liquid component;

drying the particles; and

firing the dried particles, wherein

the particles after the drying and before the firing has the nitrogen content satisfying the following:

Nitrogen content (mass%) < 0.19 × Ti content + 0.35

where the Ti content is the content of Ti expressed in % when the total amount of Ti and Si on a mol basis is 100%.

5. The method of any one of claims 3 and 4, wherein the reducing of the nitrogen content of the particles includes acid-treating a dispersion of the particles separated from the liquid component.

6. The method of any one of claims 3 and 4, wherein the reducing of the nitrogen content of the particles includes bringing a gas containing water vapor into contact with the particles during the drying of the particles.

~~4~~7. A resin composition comprising the silica-titania composite oxide powder of claim 1 or 2.

~~5~~8. A dispersion comprising: the silica-titania composite oxide powder of claim 1 or 2; and a solvent dispersing the silica-titania composite oxide powder therein.