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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/00658 (22) International Filing Date: 16 January 1997 (16.01.97) (30) Priority Data: 60/010,345 16 January 1996 (16.01.96) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MONSANTO COMPANY [US/US]; 800 North Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63167 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BAGLEY, Melvin, R. [US/US]; 4799 Kingbird Lane, St. Louis, MO 63128 (US). DUTTON, Monica, C. [US/US]; 1422 Glenmore Drive, Cantonment, FL 32533 (US). KALOTA, Dennis, J. [US/US]; 1306 Green Mist Drive, Fenton, MO 63026 (US). (74) Agents: FITZPATRICK, Joseph, M.; Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto, 277 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10172 (US) et al.	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.	
(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF TETRAALKYL 1,2,3,4-BUTANETETRACARBOXYLATES (57) Abstract Electrolytic hydrotimeric coupling of dialkyl malcates in alkanol solutions containing an alkanol-soluble alkali metal acetate/quaternary ammonium tetrafluoroborate mixed supporting electrolyte yields tetraalkyl 1,2,3,4-butanetetracarboxylates.		