

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
6 February 2003 (06.02.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/010122 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: C07C 68/02, 69/96
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- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/20678
- (22) International Filing Date: 28 June 2002 (28.06.2002)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
09/911,440 24 July 2001 (24.07.2001) US
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
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- Published:**
— with international search report
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: INTERFACIAL METHOD OF PREPARING ESTER-SUBSTITUTED DIARYL CARBONATES

(57) Abstract: High yields of ester-substituted diary carbonates such as bis-methyl salicyl carbonate were obtained by the condensation of methyl salicylate with phosgene in the presence of a phase transfer catalyst (PTC) in an interfacial reaction system in which the pH of the aqueous phase was greater than 9.3. Using the method of the present invention conversions of greater than 99% were obtained whereas under standard conditions using triethylamine as the catalyst conversions were limited to 70-75% of the methyl salicylate starting material even with a 20 mole% excess of added phosgene. The optimized conditions of the present invention use only a slight excess of phosgene and represent an attractive route for the manufacture of bis methyl salicyl carbonate and ester-substituted diaryl carbonates generally.



WO 03/010122 A1