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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP97/05765 (22) International Filing Date: 14 October 1997 (14.10.97) (30) Priority Data: 96202874.2 15 October 1996 (15.10.96) EP (34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed: GB et al. (71) Applicant: SHELL INTERNATIONALE RESEARCH MAATSCHAPPIJ B.V. [NL/NL]; Carel van Bylandtlaan 30, NL-2596 HR The Hague (NL). (72) Inventors: KEIJSPER, Johannes, Jacobus; Badhuisweg 3, NL-1031 CM Amsterdam (NL). LANGE, Jean-Paul; Badhuisweg 3, NL-1031 CM Amsterdam (NL). MURRAY, Brendan, Dermot; 1118 Stoneyhill Drive, Houston, TX 77077 (US).	(81) Designated States: CA, CN, ID, JP, KR, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>	
(54) Title: A PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF VINYLESTERS (57) Abstract A process for the catalytic conversion of carboxylic acids with acetylene to vinylesters. At least one, preferably saturated, secondary carboxylic acid and/or at least one, preferably tertiary carboxylic acid is (are) passed in the gas phase together with acetylene at an elevated temperature, preferably in the range of from 150 to 400°C, over a catalyst comprising zinc and a solid inert oxidic carrier, preferably alumina. The carboxylic acids have advantageously formula (I) in which R₁ is H or an alkyl group and R₂ and R₃ are alkyl groups, the total number of C-atoms of R₁ + R₂ + R₃ being in the range of from 3 to 18. These vinylesters have a good stability and are particularly useful components in emulsion paints and as modifiers in alkyd and epoxy resins. $\begin{array}{c} R_1 \\ \\ R_2 - C - C \begin{array}{l} \nearrow O \\ \searrow OH \end{array} \\ \\ R_3 \end{array} \quad (I)$		