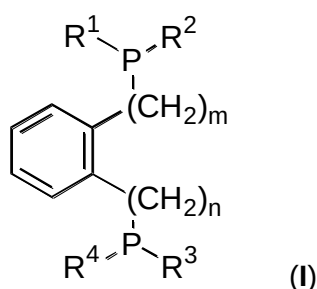


Abstract**Process for the preparation of esters by means of carbonylation of ethers**

The invention relates to a process comprising the process steps of:

- a) initially charging an ether having from 3 to 30 carbon atoms;
- b) adding a phosphine ligand and a compound comprising Pd, or adding a comprising Pd and a phosphine ligand;
- c) feeding in CO;
- d) heating the reaction mixture, with conversion of the ether; wherein the phosphine ligand is a compound of formula (I)



where

m and n are each independently 0 or 1;

R¹, R², R³, R⁴ are each independently selected from -(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl, -(C₃-C₁₂)-cycloalkyl, -(C₃-C₁₂)-heterocycloalkyl, -(C₆-C₂₀)-aryl, -(C₃-C₂₀)-heteroaryl;

at least one of the R¹, R², R³, R⁴ radicals is a -(C₃-C₂₀)-heteroaryl radical;

and

R¹, R², R³, R⁴, if they are -(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl, -(C₃-C₁₂)-cycloalkyl, -(C₃-C₁₂)-heterocycloalkyl, -(C₆-C₂₀)-aryl or -(C₃-C₂₀)-heteroaryl,

may each independently be substituted by one or more substituents selected from

-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl, -(C₃-C₁₂)-cycloalkyl, -(C₃-C₁₂)-heterocycloalkyl, -O-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl, -O-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl-(C₆-C₂₀)-aryl, -O-(C₃-C₁₂)-cycloalkyl, -S-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl, -S-(C₃-C₁₂)-cycloalkyl, -COO-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl, -COO-(C₃-C₁₂)-cycloalkyl, -CONH-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl, -CONH-(C₃-C₁₂)-cycloalkyl, -CO-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl, -CO-(C₃-C₁₂)-cycloalkyl, -N-[(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl]₂, -(C₆-C₂₀)-aryl, -(C₆-C₂₀)-aryl-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl, -(C₆-C₂₀)-aryl-O-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl, -(C₃-C₂₀)-heteroaryl, -(C₃-C₂₀)-heteroaryl-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl, -(C₃-C₂₀)-heteroaryl-O-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl, -COOH, -SO₃H, -NH₂, halogen;

and wherein no alcohol is added to the reaction mixture.