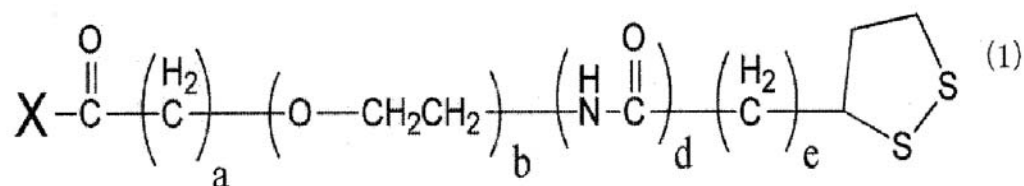


ABSTRACT:

**LINKER COMPOUND, LIGAND COMPLEX AND PROCESS FOR
PRODUCING THEM**

The present invention provides a novel linker compound which minimizes any nonspecific hydrophobic interactions and is capable of easily adjusting the length to a disulfide group subjected to metal bond to thereby enable effective formation of a metal-sulfur bond; novel ligand conjugate and ligand carrier, and a process for producing them. The linker compound is of a structure represented by the following general formula (1)



where a, b, d, e are independently an integer of 0 to 6. X has a structure serving as a multi-branched structure moiety including three or more hydrocarbon derivative chains, wherein the hydrocarbon derivative chains each include an aromatic amino group at an end thereof, and may or may not include a carbon-nitrogen bond in a main chain thereof. The ligand conjugate includes the linker compound having a sugar molecule introduced therein.

Figure 1.