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(21) International Application Number: PCT/NL96/00260 (22) International Filing Date: 26 June 1996 (26.06.96) (30) Priority Data: 95201814.1 4 July 1995 (04.07.95) EP (34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed: NL et al. (71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): DSM N.V. [NL/NL]; Het Overloon 1, NL-6411 TE Heerlen (NL). E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY [US/US]; 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): TOTH, Imre [HU/NL]; Henri Hermanslaan 48, NL-6162 GH Geleen (NL). GELLING, Onko, Jan [NL/NL]; Maaslaan 52, NL-6163 KL Geleen (NL). GUTT, Rudolf, Philippus, Maria [NL/NL]; Bouviersdaal 12, NL-6228 GP Maastricht (NL). SIMONS, Antonius, Jacobus, Franciscus [NL/NL]; Mauritspark 24, NL-6163 HN Geleen (NL). NIEMANN, Simon, Hans [NL/NL]; Jachthoornstraat 49, NL-6219 Maastricht (NL). (74) Agent: CRAMWINCKEL, Michiel; Octrooibureau DSM, P.O. Box 9, NL-6160 MA Geleen (NL).		(81) Designated States: AL, AU, BB, BG, BR, CA, CN, CZ, EE, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KP, KR, LK, LR, LT, LV, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, SG, SI, SK, TR, TT, UA, 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 TO PREPARE 5-FORMYLVALERIC ACID (57) Abstract Process to separate linear 5-formylvaleric acid from a mixture of 5- and 3- and 4-formylvaleric acids, wherein the separation is performed by fractional extraction with two immiscible solvents of which one solvent is an aqueous solvent and the other solvent is an organic solvent, in which the organic solvent has a higher or lower affinity for 5-formylvaleric acid than its affinity for the 3-formylvaleric acids and for the 4-formylvaleric acid. Furthermore the invention relates to an improved process to prepare ϵ-caprolactam starting from a mixture of branched and linear formylvaleric acids or starting from pentenoic acid.		