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(54) Title: BASIC CLAY CATALYST FOR THE PRODUCTION OF GLYCOL MONOESTER

(57) Abstract

The invention is a base–modified clay that selectively catalyzes the formation of a glycol monoester from an aldehyde. The base–modified clay comprises a clay having secluded conjugate base sites and exchangeable interstitial cationic spaces. In the base–modified clay, the interstitial hydroxyl groups have been converted to oxide sites, at least one structural hydroxyl group has been converted to an oxide site. The base–modified clay contains sufficient conjugate base cations to balance the charge of said oxide groups. Processes for preparing the base–modified clay are described. The invention also provides a process for preparing a glycol monoester. This process includes heating in a reaction vessel an aldehyde and a catalytic amount of the base–modified clay under conditions sufficient to produce a glycol monoester.

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