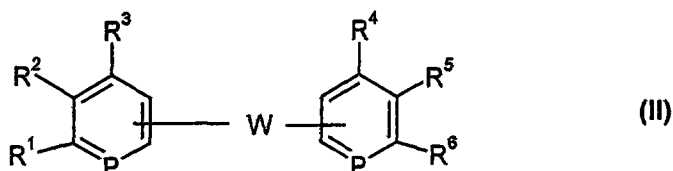
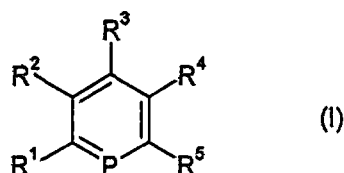


Abstract

5 A process for the preparation of phosphabenzene compounds of the formulae I and II



where R^1 to R^6 , independently of one another, are hydrogen, COOM, SO_3M , NR_3X ,
 10 NR_2 , OR, COOR or SR, where M is hydrogen, NH_4 or an alkali metal, X is an anion,
 R is hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, or C_{1-12} -alkyl, C_{6-12} -aryl, C_{7-12} -aralkyl or C_{3-6} -hetero-
 cycloalkyl having 1 to 3 heteroatoms which may be substituted by the above radicals
 or linked to form fused rings, and

-W- is a bridge comprising a covalent bond, an oxo group, a sulfur group, an amino
 15 group, a di- C_{1-6} -alkylsilicon group or a C_{1-16} -radial, which may be part of one or
 more linked cyclic or aromatic rings and may be interrupted by 1 to 3 heteroatoms,
 where the phosphabenzene ring o- or m-position not bonded to the bridge may carry
 one of the radicals R^1 to R^6 ,

with the exception of bis-3,3'-(2,4,6-triphenyl-3-phosphabenzene)-1,1-biphenyl,
 20 by reacting corresponding pyrilium salts with PH_3 in the presence of a catalytic
 amount of acid and in the presence or absence of a solvent or diluent, where the
 pyrilium salts are mixed with PH_3 at above $0^\circ C$ and reacted at from $0^\circ C$ to $200^\circ C$
 and at a pressure greater than 1 bar.