absorbing portion such as a benzophenone skeleton or the like in one molecule (Patent Documents 5 and 6).

PRIOR ART DOCUMENTS

Patent Documents:

[0003]

Patent Document 1: JP2685980B2;

Patent Document 2: JPH10-251537A;

Patent Document 3: JPH07-028911B2;

Patent Document 4: JP2604799B2;

Patent Document 5: JPH02-232056A;

Patent Document 6: JP2006-291006A.

SUMMARY ~~OF THE INVENTION~~

Problems to Be Solved ~~by the Invention~~:

[0004] The polymerizable UV-absorbing colorant monomers described in Patent Documents 5 and 6 involve the following problem. That is, the monomers are deficient in the stability against the pH change, especially in the stability under alkaline conditions, and the colorant moiety (chromophore and UV-absorbing portion) is easily eliminated from the polymer. In particular, in the case of the intraocular lens material which is to be implanted in the eye for a long period of time, the risk of the elimination of the colorant moiety is further increased.

In view of the above, an object of the present ~~invention~~ embodiments disclosed herein is to obtain a polymerizable UV-absorbing colorant monomer which is stable even under alkaline conditions.

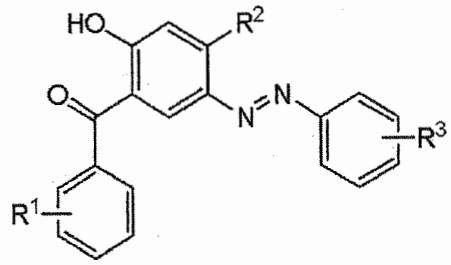
Means for solving the Problems:

[0005] The present inventors have made diligent investigations in order to solve the problem as described above. As a result, it has been found out that the problem of the stability against the pH change is caused by the presence of any ester bond between a colorant moiety and a polymerizable group in a monomer. Further, it has been found out that a polymerizable UV-absorbing colorant monomer compound represented by the following general formula (1) can solve the problem as described above.

That is, the present ~~invention~~ disclosure is as follows.

One ~~aspect~~ embodiment of the present ~~invention~~ disclosure resides in a compound represented by the following general formula (1) (hereinafter referred to as "colorant compound of the present invention" as well).

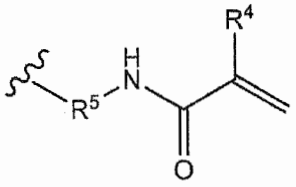
[0006]



(1)

(In the general formula (1), R^1 is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxy group, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a sulfonic acid group, or a benzyloxy group, and preferably a hydrogen atom, a methyl group, or an ethyl group. R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and preferably a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, a methoxy group, or an ethoxy group. R^3 is represented by the following formula (2).)

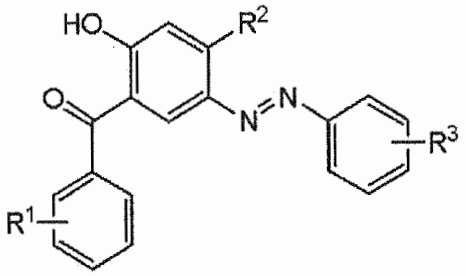
[0007]



(2)

(In the general formula (2), R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group. Further, R^5 is a single bond or an alkylene group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms which may have a substituent or substituents, preferably an alkylene group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms which has no substituent.)

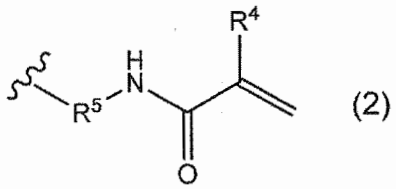
[0007a] In one aspect, there is provided a compound represented by the following general formula (1):



(1)

(in the general formula (1), R^1 is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxy group, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a sulfonic acid group, or a benzyloxy group, R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and R^3 is represented by the following formula (2)):

(in the general formula (2), R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a



(2)

methyl group, and R^5 is a single bond or an alkylene group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms which may have a substituent or substituents.)

[0008] Another aspect of the present ~~invention~~ disclosure resides in a polymer (hereinafter referred to as "polymer of the present ~~invention~~disclosure" as well) comprising the ~~colorant~~

compound ~~of the present invention~~as described above and one species or two or more species of other polymerizable monomers which are copolymerized with each other.

[0009] Still another aspect of the present ~~invention~~ disclosure resides in an intraocular lens (hereinafter referred to as "intraocular lens of the present ~~invention~~disclosure" as well) comprising the polymer ~~of the present invention~~as described above which is molded.

EFFECT OF THE ~~INVENTION~~DISCLOSURE

[0010] According to the present ~~invention~~disclosure, the polymerizable UV-absorbing colorant monomer, which is stable even under alkaline conditions, is provided. The compound, which is represented by the general formula (1), has, in its molecule, the benzophenone skeleton which has the capability to absorb the ultraviolet light, the azobenzene skeleton which has the capability to absorb the light in the blue region, and the polymerizable group. Therefore, the compound represented by the general formula (1) can be copolymerized with another polymerizable monomer or polymerizable monomers to obtain a polymer. The polymer is useful as a material for the intraocular lens.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011]

Fig. 1 shows a chart illustrating a UV-visible