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- (54) **Title:** METHYL-SUBSTITUTED BIPHENYL COMPOUNDS, THEIR PRODUCTION AND THEIR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF PLASTICIZERS

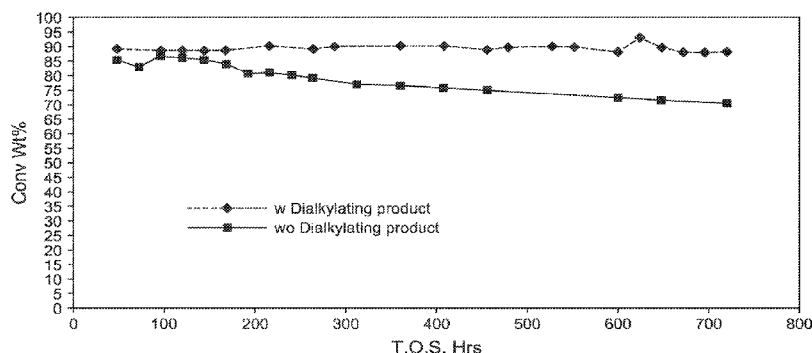


FIG. 1

- (57) **Abstract:** In a process for producing methyl-substituted biphenyl compounds, a feed comprising at least one aromatic hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of toluene, xylene and mixtures thereof is contacted with hydrogen in the presence of a hydroalkylation catalyst under conditions effective to produce a hydroalkylation reaction product comprising (methylcyclohexyl)toluenes and/or (dimethylcyclohexyl)xylenes together with dialkylated C₂₁+ compounds. At least part of the dialkylated C₂₁+ compounds is then removed from the hydroalkylation reaction product to produce a dehydrogenation feed; and at least part of the dehydrogenation feed is dehydrogenated in the presence of a dehydrogenation catalyst under conditions effective to produce a dehydrogenation reaction product comprising a mixture of methyl-substituted biphenyl compounds.