

Abstract

An alternative method for efficiently producing lactic acids from a carbohydrate-containing raw material such as cellulose is provided. The method for producing lactic acid and/or lactic acid ester comprises performing heat treatment on a carbohydrate-containing raw material in a solvent containing a catalyst, wherein the catalyst is at least one type of compound selected from the group consisting of a tin compound, an indium compound, and a rhenium compound, and the solvent contains water and/or alcohol.