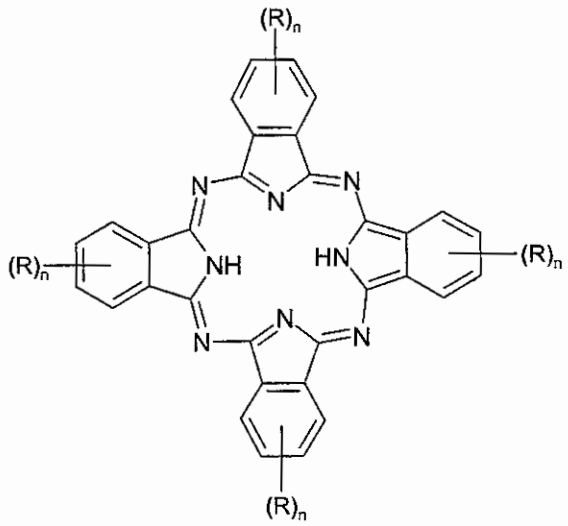
Method for preparing phthalocyanines

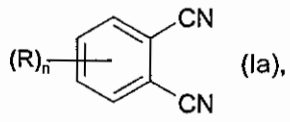
Abstract

The present invention relates to a process for the preparation of metal-free phthalocyanines of the formula I



(I)

by conversion of an ortho-phthalodinitrile of the formula Ia



(Ia),

in an inert solvent with a boiling point of at least 120°C (at standard pressure) in the presence of ammonia, in which, in formula I or Ia, the variable n can adopt values of 1, 2, 3 or 4 and the R radicals denote a five- or six-membered saturated nitrogen-comprising heterocyclic ring optionally substituted by one or two C_1-C_8-alkyl groups which is bonded via a ring nitrogen atom to the benzene ring and which can still comprise one or two additional nitrogen atoms or an additional oxygen or sulfur atom, which comprises carrying out the conversion in the presence of an alkali metal hydroxide or alkali metal carbonate.