

**POLYMER AS THICKENER AND SUSPENDING AGENT****ABSTRACT**

5     The present invention relates to a polymer obtained by radical polymerization of a  
mixture of monomers comprising: at least one anionic monomer (a) having a  
polymerizable vinyl function; at least one non-ionic hydrophobic monomer (b) having a  
polymerizable vinyl function; and one or more crosslinking monomer(s) (c) including at  
least one compound of formula (I) in which R is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is  
10    zero or an integer from 1 to 30, and R<sub>1</sub> is a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylene group. The  
present invention also relates to a process for the preparation thereof by radical  
polymerization, to an aqueous composition comprising same, to the use thereof as a  
thickener and suspending agent and also to the use of a monomer of formula (I) for  
synthesizing a polymer.

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[No Figure]