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where R^5 is methyl and R^6 is H;

X is O;

n is 1;

and m is 1;

in the presence of a catalyst according to claim 20, and optionally in the presence of an alkanol; wherein R^1 is hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 12 carbon atoms and R^3 is independently, hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

22. A process according to claim 21, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated acid or ester is selected from methacrylic acid, acrylic acid, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate or butyl acrylate.

23. A process according to claims 21 or 22, wherein the ester or acid of formula R^1-CH_2-$COOR^3$ is methyl propionate or propionic acid.

24. A process according to any one of claims 21 to 23, wherein the ~~alcohol~~alkanol is methanol.

25. A process according to any one of claims 21 to 24, wherein the process is conducted at a molar ratio of acid or ester to formaldehyde from 20:1 to 1:20, and at a temperature of 250-400°C with a residence time of 1-100 seconds, and at a pressure of 1-10 bara.