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(54) Title: **VANADIUM/PHOSPHORUS MIXED OXIDE CATALYST PRECURSOR**

(57) Abstract: A process for the preparation of a vanadium/phosphorus mixed oxide catalyst precursor is described, comprising the reaction of a vanadium source in selected organic media in the presence of a phosphorus source. The organic medium comprises: (a) isobutyl alcohol or a mixture of isobutyl alcohol and benzyl alcohol and (b) a polyol in the weight ratio (a) to (b) of 99:1 to 5:95. After its activation, the vanadium/phosphorus mixed oxide catalyst precursor is an excellent catalyst in the conversion of non-aromatic hydrocarbons like *n*-butane to maleic anhydride.