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(54) Title: ACETIC ACID BASED REFINING PROCESS OF BIOMASS

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a process for refining a biomass having a dry matter content of 5 –95wt.%, based on the total weight of the biomass, wherein the process comprises the subsequent stages of (a) water extraction under atmospheric pressure conditions and at a pH of 5 to 7, (b) prehydrolysis with water, steam or a mixture thereof at a temperature of 100°C to 200°C, and (c) hydrolysis at a pH of less than 7. In a further aspect of the invention, one or more valuable by-products such as for example vegetable oil, hemicellulose, lignin, furans, organic acids and monomeric and/or polymeric sugars are recovered from the refining process. The present invention also relates to a dissolving pulp obtained by the process according to the invention, and to the use of the dissolving pulp for the production of cellulose acetate.

