

BORANE ACTIVATED TITANIUM CATALYST SYSTEM COMPRISING GUANIDINE AND DIENE LIGANDS

The invention relates to a new catalyst system for the polymerization
 5 of olefins comprising a metal complex of formula CyLMD and an activating cocatalyst,
 wherein

- M is titanium,
- Cy is a cyclopentadienyl-type ligand,
- L is an imine ligand,
- 10 D is a diene.

The invention also relates to a process for the preparation of a
 polymer comprising at least one aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbyl C₂₋₂₀ olefin.

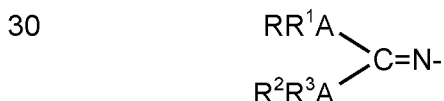
Such metal complex and process are known from US 6,528,671 B1.
 US,6,528,671 B1 relates to a transition metal compound suitable as an addition
 15 polymerization catalyst and a process for the preparation of copolymer of ethylene and
 1-hexene in the presence of a catalyst which is an organometallic complex of a group 4
 metal, the organometallic complex containing a phosphinimine ligand.

A disadvantage of the process described in US 6,528,671 B1 is the
 relatively low activity of the organometallic complex containing the phosphinimine
 20 ligand. From Henderson et al. "Synthesis of zirconocene amides and ketimides and an
 investigation into their ethylene polymerization activity", J. of Organometallic chemistry;
 Vol. 656, no 1-2, 2002, pages 63-70 organometallic complexes based on zirconium
 also show relatively low catalyst activity.

The aim of the invention is to provide a new class of catalyst systems
 25 comprising imine-type ligands providing highly active catalyst systems for the
 polymerization of olefins.

This objective is reached by a catalyst system comprising a metal
 complex of formula CyLMD wherein

L is a guanidinate ligand of the formula



wherein each A is independently selected from nitrogen or phosphorous and R,
 R¹, R² and R³ are independently selected from the group consisting of
 35 hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, silyl and germlyl residues, substituted or not with one or

more halogen, amido, phosphido, alkoxy, or aryloxy radicals and the activating cocatalyst is a boron compound represented by the general formula $BR^4R^5R^6$, wherein B is a boron atom in the trivalent valence state and R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are individually selected from the group consisting of of halogen atom, hydrocarbyl, halogenated hydrocarbyl, substituted silyl, alkoxy or di-substituted amino residue.

Surprisingly with the catalyst system according to the invention, highly active catalyst systems for the polymerization of olefins are obtained. Another advantage of the catalyst system according to the present invention is its instantaneous catalyst activity upon combination with the activating cocatalyst.

Details of the invention

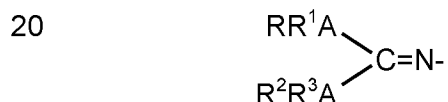
The invention relates to a catalyst system for the polymerization of olefins comprising a metal complex of formula $CyLMD$ and an activating cocatalyst, wherein

M is titanium,

Cy is a cyclopentadienyl-type ligand,

D is a diene,

L is a guanidinate ligand of the formula



wherein each A is independently selected from nitrogen or phosphorous and R, R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, silyl and germyl residues, substituted or not with one or more halogen, amido, phosphido, alkoxy, or aryloxy radicals and the activating cocatalyst is a boron compound represented by the general formula $BR^4R^5R^6$, wherein B is a boron atom in the trivalent valence state and R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are individually selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, hydrocarbyl, halogenated hydrocarbyl, substituted silyl, alkoxy or di-substituted amino residue.

In a preferred embodiment Cy is a mono- or polysubstituted cyclopentadienyl-type ligand, wherein the one or more substituents of Cy are individually selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydrocarbyl, silyl and germyl residues, optionally substituted with one or more halogen, amido, phosphido, alkoxy, or

aryloxy residues.

As used herein, the term substituted cyclopentadienyl-type ligand is meant to broadly convey its conventional meaning, namely a substituted ligand having a five-membered carbon ring, which is bonded to the metal via a π -type bonding. Thus, the term cyclopentadienyl-type includes cyclopentadienyl, indenyl and fluorenyl. The term mono- or polysubstituted refers to the fact that one or more aromatic hydrogen atoms of the cyclopentadienyl structure have been replaced by one or more other residues. The number of substituents is between 1 and 5 for the cyclopentadienyl ligand, 1 to 7 for the indenyl ligand and 1 to 9 for the fluorenyl ligand. An exemplary list of substituents for a cyclopentadienyl ligand includes the group consisting of C₁₋₁₀ hydrocarbyl radical (which hydrocarbyl substituents are unsubstituted or further substituted), a halogen atom, C₁₋₈ alkoxy radical, C₆₋₁₀ aryl or aryloxy radical; an amido radical which is unsubstituted or substituted by up to two C₁₋₈ alkyl radicals, a phosphido radical which is unsubstituted or substituted by up to two C₁₋₈ alkyl radicals, silyl radicals of the formula -Si-(R⁷)₃ wherein each R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₈ alkyl or alkoxy radical, C₆₋₁₀ aryl or aryloxy radicals and germanyl radicals of the formula -Ge-(R⁸)₃ wherein each R⁸ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₈ alkyl or alkoxy radical, C₆₋₁₀ aryl or aryloxy radical.

Such cyclopentadienyl-type ligand according to the invention is a mono anionic ligand system that is connected to the titanium atom via an aromatic π -electron. In some cases, the monoanionic cyclopentadienyl coordination is described as an η^5 -bond.

In a preferred embodiment the cyclopentadienyl ligand is penta substituted by methyl groups and in consequence Cy is 1,2,3,4,5-pentamethyl-cyclopentadienyl, C₅Me₅, commonly referred to as Cp*.

The characteristic of an imine ligand is defined as a group containing a carbon atom double bonded to a nitrogen atom. Non exhaustive examples of imine ligands are ketimine, amidine, phosphinimine, iminoimidazolidine, (hetero)aryloxyimines, pyrroleimines, indoleimines, imidazoleimines or (hetero)aryloxides, (substituted) pyridin-2-yl-methoxy, (substituted) quinolin-2-yl-methoxy, 8-hydroxyquinoline, 8-aminoquinoline, 8-phosphinoquinoline, 8-thioquinoline, 8-hydroxyquinaldine, 8-aminoquinaldine, 8-phosphinoquinaldine, 8-thioquinaldine and 7-azaindole or indazole and the like. A further example of an imine ligand is a guanidine ligand with the specific characteristic of guanidine ligands being that the

carbon atom double bounded to the nitrogen atom is further connected to two substituents via Group 15 atoms represented by A in the formula above.

The substituents of the guanidinate ligand L, "RR¹A" and "R²R³A" may be the same or different without being part of a mutual ring structure.

5 A preferred embodiment of the invention consist of the catalyst component comprising a compound of formula CyLMD wherein L is (RR¹N)(R²R³N)C=N- and R, R¹, R² and R³ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and hydrocarbyl residue.

Conjugated diene ligands D may be associated with the metal in
10 either an s-trans configuration (π -bound) or in an s-cis configuration (either π -bonded or σ -bonded). In the metal complexes used in the present invention, the diene ligand group, D, is preferably π -bound. Such a bonding type is readily determined by X-ray crystallography or by NMR spectral characterization according to the techniques of Yasuda, et al., Organometallics, 1, 388 (1982), Yasuda, et al., Acc. Chem. Res., 18,
15 120 (1985), and Erker, et al., Adv. Organomet. Chem., 24, 1 (1985), as well as the references cited therein. By the term " π -complex" is meant both the donation and back acceptance of electron density by the ligand, which is accomplished using ligand π -orbitals.

A suitable method of determining the existence of a π -complex in
20 diene containing metal complexes is the measurement of metal-carbon atomic spacings for the carbons of the diene using common X-ray crystal analysis techniques. Measurements of atomic spacings between the metal M and C1, C2, C3, C4 (M-C1, M-C2, M-C3, M-C4, respectively) (where C1 and C4 are the terminal carbons of the 4 carbon conjugated diene group and C2 and C3 are the internal carbons of the 4 carbon
25 conjugated diene group) may be made. If the difference between these bond distances, Δd , using the following formula:

$$\Delta d = [(M-C1 + M-C4) - (M-C2 + M-C3)] / 2$$

30 is greater than or equal to -0.15 Å, the diene is considered to form a π -complex with M. Such a π -bound diene is considered to be a electronically neutral ligand. In consequence the concerned titanium atom of the metal complex is in the formal oxidation state +2.

If Δd is less than $-0.15 \text{ \AA}$, the diene is considered to form a σ -complex with M and the metal complex can formally be represented by a metallocyclopentene structure with the titanium atom in the +4 formal oxidation state.

It is to be understood that the complexes according to the present invention may be formed and utilized as a mixture of π -bonded diene complexes and σ -bonded diene complexes.

Inasmuch as the complexes contain at most one cyclopentadienyl type ligand (Cy) it follows that the diene ligand D cannot comprise a cyclopentadienyl group or other anionic, aromatic π -bonded group.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention consists of a catalyst system, wherein the conjugated diene, is a C_{4-40} diene optionally substituted with one or more groups independently selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbyl, silyl, and halogenated carbyl.

Examples of suitable D moieties include: butadiene, isoprene, 1,3-pentadiene, 1,4-diphenyl-1,3-butadiene; 2,3-diphenyl-1,3-butadiene; 3-methyl-1,3-pentadiene; 1,4-dibenzyl-1,3-butadiene; 2,4-hexadiene; 2,4,5,7-tetramethyl-3,5-octadiene; 2,2,7,7-tetramethyl-3,5-octadiene; 1,4-ditolyl-1,3-butadiene; 1,4-bis(trimethylsilyl)-1,3-butadiene; 2,3-dimethylbutadiene.

A consequence of the preferred π -bonding of the coordinating diene is that the titanium atom of the complex of the present invention with the general formula $CyLMD$, has the formal valence $2+$, since both the ligands Cy and L are monoanionic ligands.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention is a catalyst system wherein the activating cocatalyst is a borane represented by the general formula $BR^4R^5R^6$, wherein B is a boron atom in the trivalent valence state and R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are individually selected from the group of halogen atom, hydrocarbyl, halogenated hydrocarbyl, substituted silyl, alkoxy or di substituted amino residue. A most preferred activating cocatalyst is tris pentafluorophenyl borane.

Above described titanium metal complex and the activating cocatalyst represent the essential compounds required for the highly active polymerization reaction as described by the present invention. It will be understood by the person skilled in the art, that further additives are not excluded from the polymerization

process. A non-limiting list of such additives consists of scavengers, stabilizers and carrier materials.

The term scavenger as used in this specification is meant to include those compounds effective for removing polar impurities from the reaction solvent.

5 Such impurities can be inadvertently introduced with any of the polymerization reaction components, particularly with solvent, monomer and catalyst feed, and adversely affect catalyst activity and stability. It can result in decreasing or even elimination of catalytic activity, particularly when an activator capable of ionizing the titanium metal complex is also present. Aluminum alkyls and aluminoxanes are suitable scavengers. Typical
10 examples are triethylaluminum (Et_3Al), trioctylaluminum (Oct_3Al), triisobutylaluminum ($i\text{-Bu}_3\text{Al}$), $(\text{Et}_2\text{Al})_2\text{O}$, $(\text{Oct}_2\text{Al})_2\text{O}$, $(i\text{-Bu}_2\text{Al})_2\text{O}$ and oligomers thereof such as $[(\text{Et}_2\text{Al})_2\text{O}]_n$, $[(\text{Oct}_2\text{Al})_2\text{O}]_n$ and $[(i\text{-Bu}_2\text{Al})_2\text{O}]_n$ (with $n > 1$). Optionally the trialkyl aluminium scavengers can be modified by phenolic compounds or other protic heteroatom containing compounds.

15 An exemplary list of carriers (also called carrier materials or support materials) includes metal oxides (such as silica, alumina, silica-alumina, titania and zirconia); metal chlorides (such as magnesium chloride); clays, polymers or talc.

The preferred support material is silica. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the silica has been treated with an aluminoxane (especially
20 methylaluminoxane or MAO) prior to the deposition of the titanium metal complex. It will be recognized by those skilled in the art that silica may be characterized by such parameters as particle size, pore volume and residual silanol concentration. The pore size and silanol concentration may be altered by heat treatment or calcination. The residual silanol groups provide a potential reaction site between the aluminoxane and
25 the silica. This reaction may help to "anchor" the aluminoxane to the silica.

As a general guideline, the use of commercially available silicas, such as those sold by W.R. Grace under the trademark Davidson 948 or Davidson 955, are suitable.

The invention further relates to a process for the preparation of a
30 polymer comprising at least one aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbyl C_{2-20} olefin wherein the at least one aliphatic or aromatic olefin is contacted with the catalyst system of the present invention.

In a preferred embodiment the catalyst system comprising an activating cocatalyst which is a borane and at least one aluminium alkyl or aluminoxane or a mixture thereof.

35 Here the aluminium compounds work as scavengers. Even more preferred is such a

combination that further comprises phenolic compounds like BHT or other protic heteroatom containing compounds.

Also preferred is the catalyst system of the present invention, which does not comprise any aluminium alkyl or aluminoxane or a mixture thereof.

5

Polymerization process according to this invention may be undertaken in any of the well known olefin polymerization processes including those known as "gas phase", "slurry", "high pressure" and "solution".

10 The use of a supported catalyst is preferred for gas phase and slurry processes whereas a non-supported catalyst is preferred for the solution process.

The polymerization process according to this invention uses an olefin, e.g. ethylene or propylene and may include other monomers which are copolymerizable therewith (such as other olefins, preferably propylene, butene, hexene or octene, and optionally dienes such as hexadiene isomers, vinyl aromatic monomers
15 such as styrene or cyclic olefin monomers such as norbornene).

The polyethylene polymers which may be prepared in accordance with the present invention typically comprise not less than 60, preferably not less than 70 wt% of ethylene and the balance one or more C₄₋₁₀ alpha olefins preferably selected from the group consisting of 1-butene, 1-hexene and 1-octene. The polyethylene
20 prepared in accordance with the present invention may be linear low density polyethylene having density from about 0.910 to 0.935 g/mL. The process of the present invention is preferably used to prepare polyethylene having a density below 0.910 g/mL - the so called very low and ultra low density polyethylenes.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention is a process wherein
25 the prepared polymer is EPDM. EPDM is the common terminology to describe elastomeric co- and terpolymers of ethylene, propylene and optionally one or more diolefin monomer (diene). Generally, such elastomeric polymers will contain about 40 to about 80 wt% ethylene, preferably about 50 to 75 wt% ethylene and correspondingly from 60 to 20 wt% and preferably from 50 to 25 wt% of propylene respectively. A
30 portion of the monomers, typically the propylene monomer, may be replaced by a non-conjugated diolefin. The diolefin may be present in amounts up to 10 wt% of the polymer although typically is present in amounts from about 3 to 5 wt%. The resulting polymer may have a composition comprising from 40 to 80 wt% of ethylene, from 60 to 20 wt% of propylene and up to 10 wt% of one or more diene monomers to provide 100
35 wt% of the polymer. Preferred but not limiting examples of the dienes are

dicyclopentadiene (DCPD), 1,4-hexadiene (HD), 5-methylene-2-norbornene, 5-ethylidene-2-norbornene (ENB) and 5-vinyl-2-norbornene (VNB). Particularly preferred dienes are ENB and VNB.

The polymers prepared according to the process of the present invention may have a weight average molecular weight of 10,000 to 5,000,000 g/mol. Preferably, the polymers have a weight average molecular weight of 20,000 to 1,000,000 g/mol, more preferably 50,000 to 300,000 g/mol.

The preferred polymerization process of this invention encompasses the use of the novel catalysts system in a medium pressure solution process. As used herein, the term "medium pressure solution process" refers to a polymerization carried out in a solvent for the polymer at an operating temperature from 20 to 150°C (especially from 40 to 120°C) and a total pressure of from 3 to 35 bar. Hydrogen may be used in this process to control molecular weight. Optimal catalyst component concentrations are affected by such variables as temperature and monomer concentration but may be quickly optimized by non-inventive tests.

The most preferred process of the present invention is a solution process for the polymerization of ethylene propylene diene elastomers (EPDM). These processes are conducted in the presence of an inert hydrocarbon solvent such as a C₅₋₁₂ hydrocarbon which may be unsubstituted or substituted by a C₁₋₄ alkyl group such as pentane, methyl pentane, hexane, heptane, octane, cyclohexane, methylcyclohexane and hydrogenated naphtha.

The monomers used in the process according to the invention for the preparation of the polymer may be dissolved/dispersed in the solvent prior to being fed to a reactor. For a gaseous monomer, the monomer may be fed to a reactor so that it will dissolve in the reaction mixture. Prior to mixing, the solvent and monomers are preferably purified to remove potential catalyst poisons such as water or oxygen. The feedstock purification follows standard practices in the art, e.g. molecular sieves, alumina beds and oxygen removal catalysts are used for the purification of monomers. The solvent itself (e.g. methylpentane, cyclohexane, hexane or toluene) is preferably treated in a similar manner.

The feedstock may be heated or cooled prior to feeding to the polymerization reactor. Additional monomers and solvent may be added to a second reactor and the reactor(s) may be heated or cooled.

Generally, the catalyst component and ingredients such as scavenger and activator can be added as separate solutions to the reactor or premixed before

adding to the reactor.

The residence time in the polymerization reactor will depend on the design and the capacity of the reactor. Generally the reactors should be operated under conditions to achieve a thorough mixing of the reactants. If two reactors in series
5 are used, it is preferred that from 50 to 95 wt% of the final polymer is polymerized in the first reactor, with the balance being polymerized in the second reactor. It is also possible to use a dual parallel reactor setup. On leaving the reactor the solvent is removed and the resulting polymer is finished in a conventional manner.

It is also within the scope of this invention to use more than two
10 polymerization reactors.

The invention also relates to the polymer obtainable by the process according to the invention.

A further advantage of the polymerization system according to the present invention is the speed of activation of the titanium diene complex upon the
15 addition of the activating cocatalyst. Whereas most of the catalyst systems from the prior art require pre-mixing of the catalyst-cocatalyst system, the catalyst system of the present invention allows the immediate dosing of the titanium complex and the cocatalyst to the reactor without substantial loss of activity of the catalyst system.

Examples

Example 1

In an inert atmosphere of nitrogen, the reactor was filled with 650 mL of pentamethyl heptanes (PMH), 450 μ mol iso-butyl aluminoxane (iBAO-65 of AkzoNobel). The catalyst vessel was rinsed with an additional 50 ml of PMH, which was added to the reactor.

The reactor was heated to 100 °C, while stirring at 1000 rpm. The reactor was pressurized to 8 bar and continuously fed (500 nL/h) with ethylene. The reactor was kept constant at 8 bar by venting of the gas phase.

After stirring the solution for ten minutes at a constant pressure and temperature (conditioning period), 0.1 μ mol catalyst ($\text{Cp}^*[\text{Me}_2\text{N}(\text{C}=\text{N})\text{NMe}_2]\text{Ti}[1,4\text{-Me}_2(\text{C}_4\text{H}_4)]$) was added via the catalyst vessel into the reactor. Then 0.2 μ mol co catalyst tris(perfluorophenyl)borane (BF_{15}) was added via the catalyst vessel into the reactor. The catalyst vessel was rinsed with an additional 50 ml of PMH, which was added to the reactor. The reaction started and the reactor temperature was recorded.

After ten minutes of polymerization, the ethylene flow was stopped and the solution was carefully tapped off. The reactor was flushed for 30 min at 140 °C to rinse the reactor of any residual polymer. The polymer solution was stabilized with Irganox 1076 (99 mg) in isopropanol/PMH and dried overnight at 93°C under reduced pressure.

Polymer Yield: 0.5 g. Calculated Titanium content: 9.2 ppm

Examples 2

In an inert atmosphere of nitrogen, the reactor was filled with 650 mL of pentamethyl heptanes (PMH), 450 μ mol iso-butyl aluminoxane (iBAO-65 of AkzoNobel). The catalyst vessel was rinsed with an additional 50 ml of PMH, which was added to the reactor.

The reactor was heated to 100 °C, while stirring at 1000 rpm. The reactor was pressurized to 8 bar and continuously fed (500 nL/h) with ethylene. The reactor was

kept constant at 8 bar by venting of the gas phase.

- After stirring the solution for ten minutes at a constant pressure and temperature (conditioning period), 0.3 μmol catalyst ($\text{Cp}^*[\text{Me}_2\text{N}(\text{C}=\text{N})\text{NMe}_2]\text{Ti}[1,4\text{-Me}_2(\text{C}_4\text{H}_4)]$) was added via the catalyst vessel into the reactor. Then 0.6 μmol co catalyst tris(perfluorophenyl)borane (BF_{15}) was added via the catalyst vessel into the reactor. The catalyst vessel was rinsed with an additional 50 ml of PMH, which was added to the reactor. The reaction started and the reactor temperature was recorded.
- 10 After ten minutes of polymerization, the ethylene flow was stopped and the solution was carefully tapped off. The reactor was flushed for 30 min at 140 °C to rinse the reactor of any residual polymer. The polymer solution was stabilized with Irganox 1076 (99 mg) in isopropanol/PMH and dried overnight at 93°C under reduced pressure.
- 15 Polymer Yield: 1.8 g. Calculated Titanium content: 8.0 ppm

Example 3

- In an inert atmosphere of nitrogen, the reactor was filled with 650 mL of pentamethyl heptanes (PMH), 450 μmol iso-butyl aluminoxane (iBAO-65 of AkzoNobel). The catalyst vessel was rinsed with an additional 50 ml of PMH, which was added to the reactor.
- 20

- The reactor was heated to 90 °C, while stirring at 1000 rpm. The reactor was pressurized to 8 bar and continuously fed with under a set ratio of ethylene and propylene (resp. 200 nL/h and 400 nL/h). The reactor was kept constant at 8 bar by venting of the gas phase.
- 25

- After stirring the solution for ten minutes at a constant pressure and temperature (conditioning period), 0.5 μmol catalyst ($\text{Cp}^*[\text{Me}_2\text{N}(\text{C}=\text{N})\text{NMe}_2]\text{Ti}[1,4\text{-Me}_2(\text{C}_4\text{H}_4)]$) was added via the catalyst vessel into the reactor. Then 0.5 μmol co catalyst tris(perfluorophenyl)borane (BF_{15}) was added via the catalyst vessel into the reactor. The catalyst vessel was rinsed with an additional 50 ml of PMH, which was added to the reactor. The reaction started and the reactor temperature was recorded.
- 30

After ten minutes of polymerization, the ethylene flow was stopped and the solution

was carefully tapped off. The reactor was flushed for 10 min at 90 °C to rinse the reactor of any residual polymer. The polymer solution was stabilized with Irganox 1076 (99 mg) in isopropanol/PMH and dried overnight at 93°C under reduced pressure.

5 Polymer Yield: 1.9 g. Calculated Titanium content: 12.4 ppm

Example 4

In an inert atmosphere of nitrogen, the reactor was filled with 650 mL of pentamethyl heptanes (PMH), 450 µmol iso-butyl aluminoxane (iBAO-65 of AkzoNobel). The catalyst vessel was rinsed with an additional 50 ml of PMH, which was added to the
10 reactor.

The reactor was heated to 90 °C, while stirring at 1000 rpm. The reactor was pressurized to 8 bar and continuously fed with under a set ratio of ethylene and propylene (resp. 200 nL/h and 400 nL/h). The reactor was kept constant at 8 bar by
15 venting of the gas phase.

After stirring the solution for ten minutes at a constant pressure and temperature (conditioning period), 0.5 µmol catalyst ($\text{Cp}^*[\text{Me}_2\text{N}(\text{C}=\text{N})\text{NMe}_2]\text{Ti}[1,4\text{-Me}_2(\text{C}_4\text{H}_4)]$) was added via the catalyst vessel into the reactor. Then 1.0 µmol co catalyst
20 tris(perfluorophenyl)borane (BF_{15}) was added via the catalyst vessel into the reactor. The catalyst vessel was rinsed with an additional 50 ml of PMH, which was added to the reactor. The reaction started and the reactor temperature was recorded.

After ten minutes of polymerization, the ethylene flow was stopped and the solution
25 was carefully tapped off. The reactor was flushed for 10 min at 90 °C to rinse the reactor of any residual polymer. The polymer solution was stabilized with Irganox 1076 (99 mg) in isopropanol/PMH and dried overnight at 93°C under reduced pressure.

Polymer Yield: 1.8 g. Calculated Titanium content: 13.0 ppm

30 Example 5

In an inert atmosphere of nitrogen, the reactor was filled with 650 mL of pentamethyl heptanes (PMH), 450 µmol iso-butyl aluminoxane (iBAO-65 of AkzoNobel). The catalyst vessel was rinsed with an additional 50 ml of PMH, which was added to the

reactor.

The reactor was heated to 90 °C, while stirring at 1000 rpm. The reactor was pressurized to 8 bar and continuously fed with under a set ratio of ethylene and propylene (resp. 200 nL/h and 400 nL/h). The reactor was kept constant at 8 bar by venting of the gas phase.

- After stirring the solution for ten minutes at a constant pressure and temperature (conditioning period), 0.5 µmol catalyst ($\text{Cp}^*[\text{Me}_2\text{N}(\text{C}=\text{N})\text{NMe}_2]\text{Ti}[1,4\text{-Me}_2(\text{C}_4\text{H}_4)]$) was added via the catalyst vessel into the reactor. Then 5.0 µmol co catalyst tris(perfluorophenyl)borane (BF_{15}) was added via the catalyst vessel into the reactor. The catalyst vessel was rinsed with an additional 50 ml of PMH, which was added to the reactor. The reaction started and the reactor temperature was recorded.
- After ten minutes of polymerization, the ethylene flow was stopped and the solution was carefully tapped off. The reactor was flushed for 10 min at 90 °C to rinse the reactor of any residual polymer. The polymer solution was stabilized with Irganox 1076 (99 mg) in isopropanol/PMH and dried overnight at 93°C under reduced pressure.
- Polymer Yield: 2.4 g. Calculated Titanium content: 10.1 ppm

CLAIMS

1. A catalyst system for the polymerization of olefins comprising
 - (a) a metal complex of formula CyLMD, wherein
 - 5 M is titanium,
 - Cy is a cyclopentadienyl-type ligand,
 - L is an imine ligand,
 - D is a conjugated diene, and
 - (b) an activating cocatalyst,
 which metal complex is characterized in that
 - 10 L is a guanidinate ligand of the formula

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{RR}^1\text{A} \\ \diagdown \\ \text{C}=\text{N}- \\ \diagup \\ \text{R}^2\text{R}^3\text{A} \end{array}$$
 - 15 wherein each A is independently selected from nitrogen or phosphorous and R, R¹, R² and R³ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, silyl and germyl residues, substituted or not with one or more halogen, amido, phosphido, alkoxy, or aryloxy radicals, and
 - 20 the activating cocatalyst is a boron compound represented by the general formula BR⁴R⁵R⁶, wherein B is a boron atom in the trivalent valence state and R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are individually selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, hydrocarbyl, halogenated hydrocarbyl, substituted silyl, alkoxy or di-substituted amino residue.
- 25 2. Catalyst system according to claim 1, wherein Cy is a mono- or polysubstituted cyclopentadienyl-type ligand, wherein the one or more substituents of Cy are individually selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydrocarbyl, silyl and germyl residues, optionally substituted with one or more halogen, amido, phosphido, alkoxy, or aryloxy residues.
- 30 3. Catalyst system according to any of the claims 1 and 2, wherein the diene is a C₄₋₄₀ diene optionally substituted with one or more groups independently selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbyl, silyl, and halogenated carbyl.
4. Catalyst system according to claim 1, which does comprise at least one
 - 35 aluminium alkyl or aluminoxane or a mixture thereof.

5. Catalyst system according to claim 1, which does not comprise any aluminium alkyl or aluminoxane or a mixture thereof.
6. A process for the preparation of a polymer comprising at least one aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbyl C₂₋₂₀ olefin characterized in that the at least one aliphatic or aromatic olefin is contacted with the catalyst system according to any of the claims 1 to 5.
7. Process according to claim 4, wherein the polymer is EPDM.