

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a process for the preparation of an α,β -unsaturated C₃-C₆ carboxylic acid of greater than 98% purity, which combines fractional distillation and melt crystallization procedures. One embodiment of the process of the invention is depicted schematically in Figure 1 wherein 1 represents a dehydrogenation reactor in which a C₃-C₆ carboxylic acid is dehydrogenated to produce an α,β -unsaturated C₃-C₆ carboxylic acid, 3 represents a distillation unit and 6 represents a melt crystallizer.

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