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CLAIMS

[Claim 1] An alkoxylation catalyst for use in a reaction of alkoxylation of a fatty acid alkyl ester represented by general formula (I) shown below, the alkoxylation catalyst being formed when a component (B) that is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an alkaline-earth metal salt of a carboxylic acid, an alkaline-earth metal salt of a hydroxycarboxylic acid, an oxide of an alkaline-earth metal and a hydroxide of an alkaline-earth metal and a component (C) that is sulphuric acid are reacted in a component (A) that is a liquid dispersion medium, wherein the molar ratio represented by the component (C)/the component (B) is from greater than 0.8 to less than 1:

$R^{11}COOR^{12}$ ⋯ (I)

in the formula (I), R^{11} is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 40 carbon atoms; and R^{12} is a linear alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

[Claim 2] The alkoxylation catalyst according to Claim 1, wherein

the component (A) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an alcohol represented by general formula (1) shown below, an alkylene oxide adduct of the alcohol, a fatty acid alkyl ester represented by general formula (2) shown below, an alkylene oxide adduct of the fatty acid alkyl ester, a fatty acid represented by general formula (3) shown below and an alkylene oxide adduct of the fatty acid:

ROH ⋯ (1)

in the formula (1), R is a hydrocarbon group having 3 to 18 carbon atoms;

R^1COOR^2 ⋯ (2)

in the formula (2), R^1 is a hydrocarbon group having 3 to 18 carbon atoms; and

R^2 is a linear alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms; and

R^3COOH ⋯ (3)

in the formula (3), R^3 is a hydrocarbon group having 3 to 18 carbon atoms.