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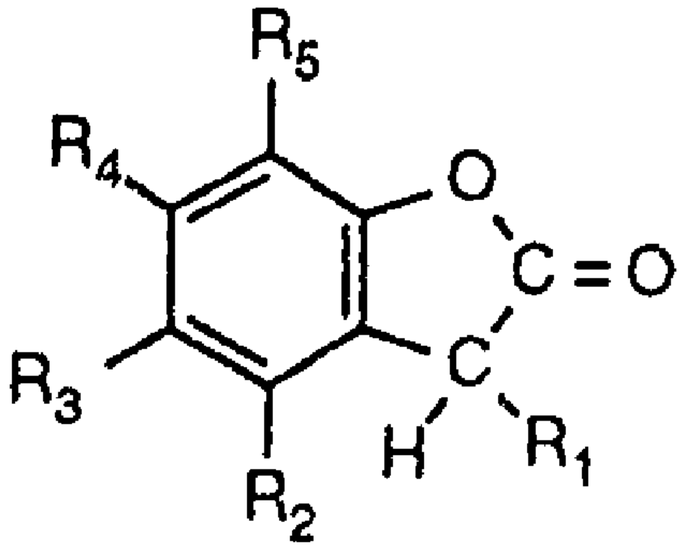
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(54) Titre : PROCEDE ET COMPOSE POUR L'OBTENTION DE PRODUITS A STABILITE EN MOULAGE AMELIOREE
(54) Title: COMPOSITION AND PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ARTICLES HAVING MOULDING STABILITY



(1)

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:
A composition and a process for the preparation of polyamide fibre containing articles having enhanced moulding stability comprising the use of benzofuran-2-ones as claimed in claim 1.

Composition and process for the preparation of articles having moulding stability

Abstract of the Disclosure

A composition and a process for the preparation of polyamide fibre containing articles having enhanced moulding stability comprising the use of benzofuran-2-ones as claimed in claim 1.

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Composition and process for the preparation of articles having moulding stability

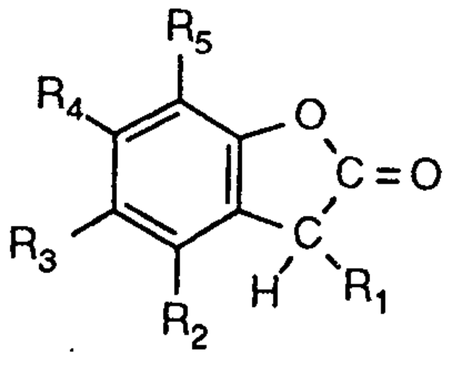
The present invention relates to a composition and to a process for the preparation of ultra-white or particularly brilliant coloured polyamide-containing articles which have enhanced moulding stability.

Certain articles made from synthetic fibres are shaped by a heat treatment (moulding). These articles are primarily high-quality articles made from whitened polyamide fibres or also those which consist of polyamide/polyurethane. The hot moulds normally cause a yellowing or even a brown discolouration of the whitened textile material. This discolouration depends greatly on the quality of the polyamide, but especially on the fluorescent whitening agent, and results in fluctuations in the quality of such articles.

It has now been found that it is possible to eliminate the above shortcomings completely, or at least substantially, by using specific benzofuran-2-ones and customary fluorescent whitening agents, also in conjunction with dyes. Surprisingly, compared with merely whitened material, material is obtained which, after moulding, has superior whiteness, greater brilliance and, in addition, exhibits fewer fluctuations in quality.

The invention therefore relates to the use of, and to a process comprising the use of, benzofuran-2-ones for enhancing the moulding stability of polyamide containing material, as well as to a composition for whitening polyamide containing articles, which composition comprises a fluorescent whitening agent and a benzofuran-2-one, and also to a composition which, in addition to comprising the benzofuran-2-one and the fluorescent whitening agent, further comprises one or more than one dye.

The process for the preparation of polyamide containing articles having enhanced moulding stability comprises applying to the fibres before, during or after whitening and optionally dyeing the fibres, a compound of formula



(1)

wherein

R_1 is unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, wherein the substituents are selected from 1 to 3 alkyl radicals together containing not more than 18 carbon atoms, C_1-C_{12}alkoxy, C_1-C_{18}acyloxy, C_1-C_{18}alkoxycarbonyl, chloro or a mixture of these substituents,

R_2 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl,

R_4 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, unsubstituted or C_1-C_4alkyl-substituted C_5-C_7cycloalkyl, phenyl, C_7-C_{12}phenylalkyl or chloro,

R_3 has the meaning of R_2 or R_4 or is a radical of formula $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-OR_6$,

$-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-N(R_7)_2$, $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-O-A-O-C(=O)-(CH_2)_n-E$,

$-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-NR_8-A-NR_8-C(=O)-(CH_2)_n-E$, $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-NR_8-A-O-C(=O)-(CH_2)_n-E$,

$-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-N$(piperazine)$N-C(=O)-(CH_2)_n-E$, $-CH_2-S-R_9$, $-CH(C_6H_5)-C(=O)-OR_6$ or

-D-E, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2,

R_6 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, C_2-C_{18}alkyl which is interrupted by oxygen or sulfur, dialkylaminoalkyl containing a total of 3 to 16 carbon atoms, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or phenyl which is substituted by 1 to 3 alkyl radicals together containing not more than 18 carbon atoms,

the substituents R_7 are each independently of the other hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, phenyl which is substituted by 1 or 2 alkyl radicals together containing not more than 16 carbon atoms, a radical of formula

$-C_2H_4OH$, $-C_2H_4-O-C_mH_{2m+1}$ or $-C_2H_4-O-C(=O)-R_{10}$, or, together with the linking

nitrogen atom, form a piperidino or morpholino radical,

m is 1 to 18,

R_{10} is hydrogen, C_1-C_{22}alkyl or C_5-C_{12}cycloalkyl,

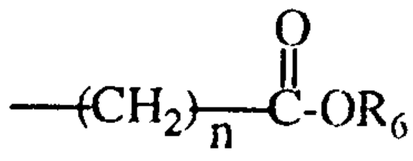
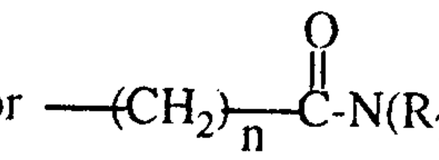
A is alkylene of 2 to 22 carbon atoms which may be interrupted by nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur,

R_8 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, phenyl which is substituted by 1 or 2 alkyl radicals together containing not more than 16 carbon atoms, or benzyl,

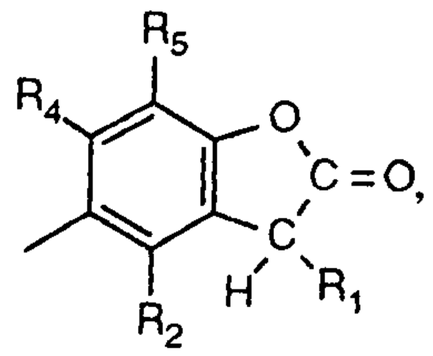
R_9 is C_1-C_{18}alkyl,

D is -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2- or -$C(R_{11})_2$-,

the substituents R_{11} are each independently of the other hydrogen, alkyl together containing not more than 16 carbon atoms, phenyl or a radical of formula

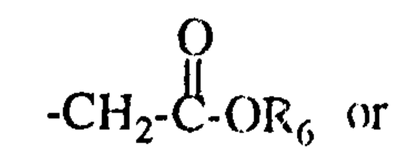
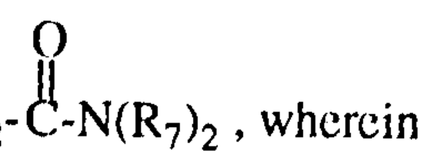
 or , wherein n, R_6 and R_7 have the given meanings,

E is a radical of formula



wherein R_1, R_2 and R_4 have the given meanings, and

R_5 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{30}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, chloro or a radical of formula

 or , wherein R_6 and R_7 have the given meanings, or

R_5 together with R_4 form a tetramethylene radical.

The benzofuran-2-ones of formula (1) and proceses for their preparation are disclosed in US-A-4 325 863 and US-A-4 338 244.

The alkyl substituents in formula (1) may contain up to 30 carbon atoms. Typical examples are: methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl, octyl, nonyl, decyl, undecyl, dodecyl, tetradecyl, hexadecyl, octadecyl, eicosyl or docosyl as well as corresponding branched isomers, preferably tert-butyl, isooctyl and isosodecyl. Alkoxy and alkoxycarbonyl radicals are derived from these groups, as are alkylene radicals which are

contained in the definitions of the substituents shown in formula (1). The cited alkyl radicals can be interrupted by oxygen or sulfur to form in particular structural units like $-CH_2CH_2-O-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-S-CH_2CH_2-$ or $-O-(CH_2)_6-O-$. If the alkyl radicals are substituents at the phenyl rings, then they are preferably in 3- and 5-position.

In preferred benzofuran-2-ones the substituent R_2 in the compounds of formula (1) is hydrogen.

R_3 is preferably hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, chloro or a radical of formula $-(CH_2)_n-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-OR_6$, $-(CH_2)_n-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-N(R_7)_2$ or -D-E, wherein n, R_6, R_7, D and E have the given meanings.

The preferred meaning of R_6 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl.

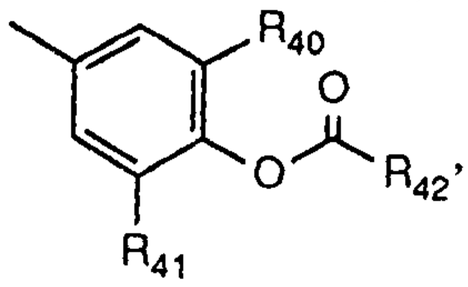
In a further group of preferred benzofuran-2-ones, R_1 is unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, wherein the substituents are 1 or 2 alkyl radicals together containing not more than 12 carbon atoms, C_1-C_{12}acyloxy or a mixture of these substituents;

R_2 is hydrogen and R_4 is hydrogen or C_1-C_{12}alkyl,

R_3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-OR_6$, $-(CH_2)_n-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-N(R_7)_2$ or -D-E,

R_5 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{20}alkyl, $-CH_2-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-OR_6$ or $-CH_2-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-N(R_7)_2$, or
R_5 together with R_4 are tetramethylene, and n, R_6, R_7, D and E have the given meanings.

Preferred compounds of formula (1) from among these compounds are those wherein

R_1 is phenyl or , wherein R_{40} ,R_{41} and R_{42} are each independently of one another hydrogen or C_1-C_8alkyl,

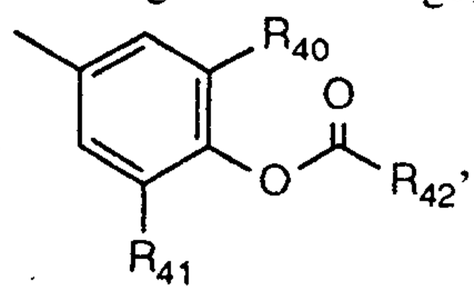
R_3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl or -D-E,

R_2 is hydrogen,

R_4 is hydrogen, or C_1-C_4alkyl, and

R_5 is C_1-C_{20}alkyl,

and D and E have the given meanings, and more particularly those compounds wherein

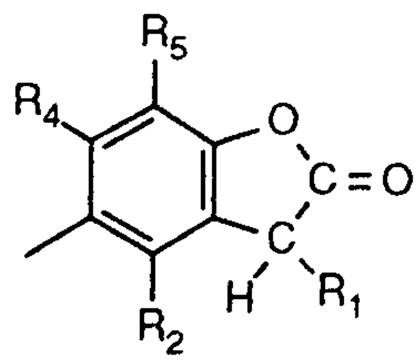
R_1 is phenyl or , wherein R_{40} ,R_{41} and R_{42} are each independently of

one another hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl,

R_3 is C_1-C_4alkyl or -D-E,

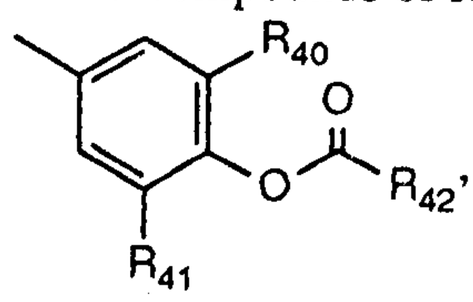
R_2 and R_4 is hydrogen, and

R_5 is C_1-C_4alkyl or cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl, and D is -$C(R_{11})_2$- and E is a radical of formula



and the substituents R_{11} are identical or different and are each C_1-C_4alkyl, and R_1, R_2, R_4 and R_5 have the given meanings.

Particularly preferred compounds of formula (1) are those wherein

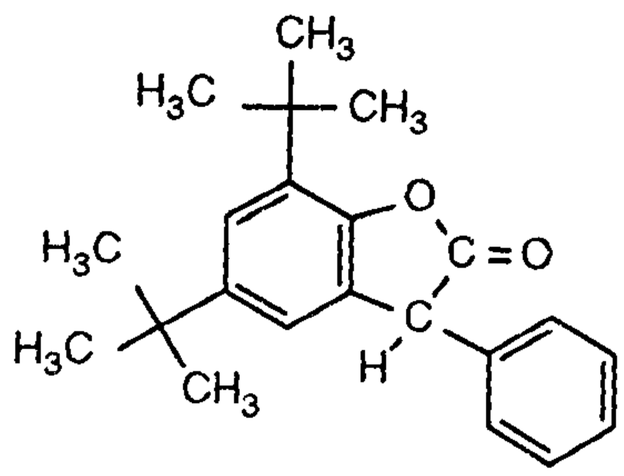
R_1 is phenyl or , wherein R_{40} ,R_{41} and R_{42} are each independently of

one another C_1-C_4alkyl,

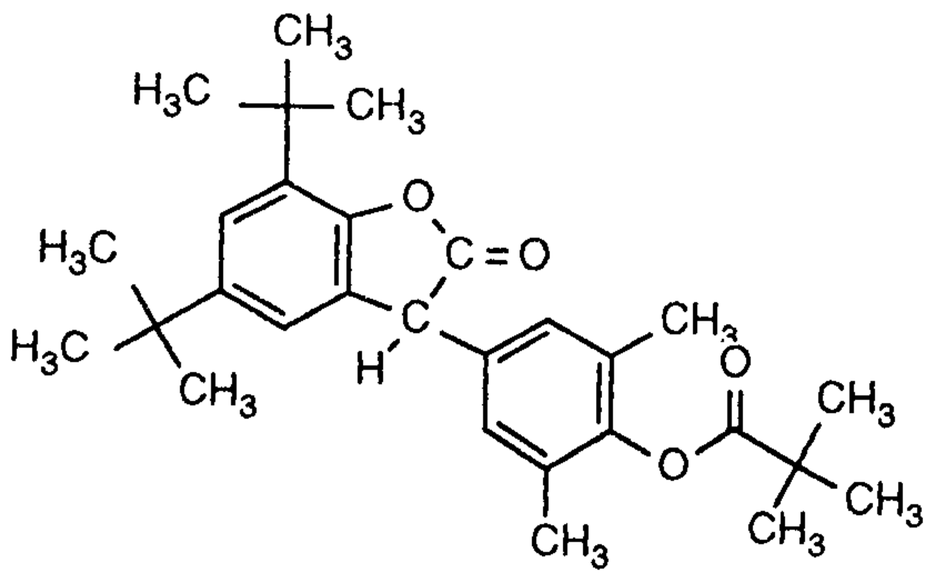
R_4 and R_2 are hydrogen,

R_3 and R_5 are each independently of the other C_1-C_{18}alkyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl.

Exemplary of these compounds are compounds (2) and (3):



(2)



(3)

The compounds of formula (1) are normally applied from an aqueous bath. Application can be made before, during or after whitening the fibres by an exhaust or continuous process. Application jointly with the fluorescent whitening agent is preferred.

In the exhaust process it is possible to use 0.01 to 1 %, preferably 0.05 to 0.5 %, of fluorescent whitening agent, and 0.01 to 3 %, preferably 0.03 to 0.3 % of compounds of formula (1).

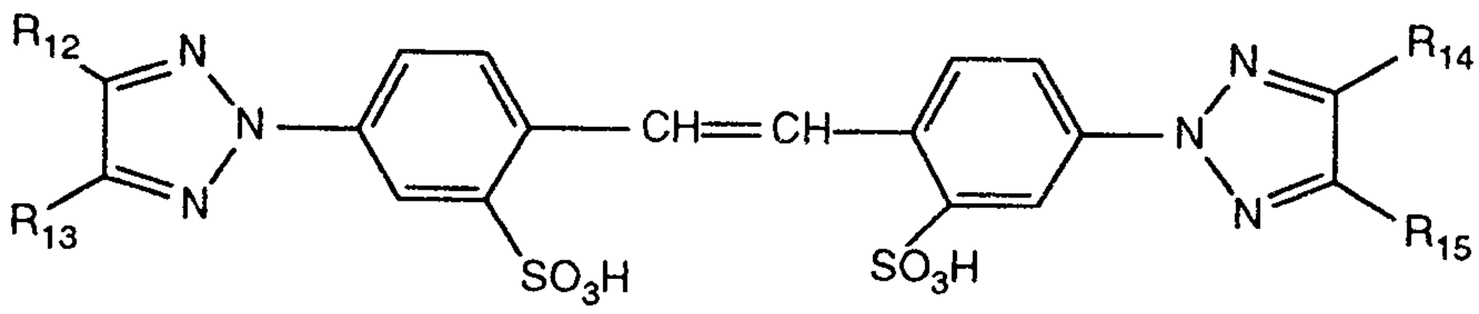
In the continuous process it is possible to use 0.1 to 10 g/l, preferably 0.2 to 2 g/l, of fluorescent whitening agent, and 0.1 to 30 g/l, preferably 0.2 to 2 g/l, of compounds of formula (1).

Polyamide material will be understood as meaning synthetic polyamide material, typically polyamide 6, polyamide 6,6 or polyamide 12, as well as modified polyamide, e.g. polyamide which is dyeable with basic dyes. In addition to pure polyamide fibres, blends of polyamide and polyurethane, typically tricot material made from a polyamide/polyurethane blend in the ratio 70:30, are also suitable. Basically the pure polyamides or the polyamide blends can be in any form of presentation, for example fibres, yarn, woven and knitted materials, bonded fibre fabrics or pile material.

Fluorescent whitening agents suitable for polyamide containing fibre materials are typically those of the general formulae (5) to (11).

Bis(triazolyl)stilbenes of general formula (5)

(5)

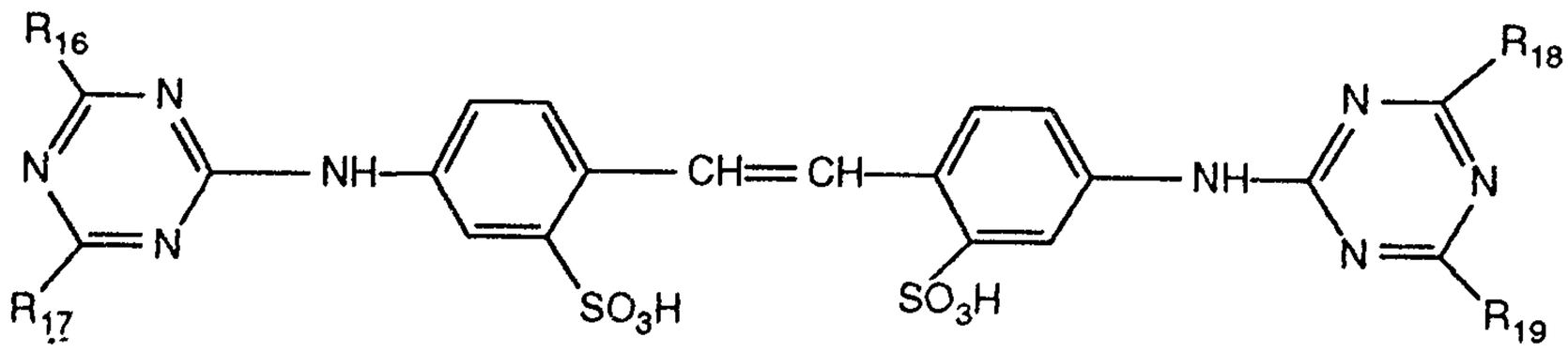


and e.g. the alkali metal salts thereof,

wherein R_{12}, R_{13}, R_{14} and R_{15} may each independently of one another be H, C_1-C_6alkyl, phenyl or phenyl which is substituted by e.g. sulfonic acid groups.

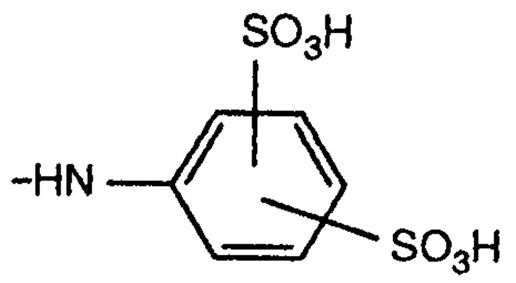
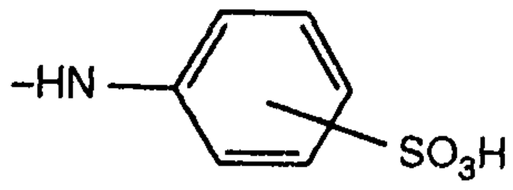
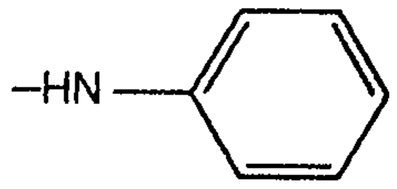
Bis(triazinylamino)stilbenes of general formula (6)

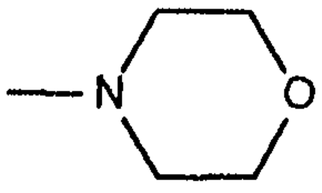
(6)



and e.g. the alkali metal salts thereof,

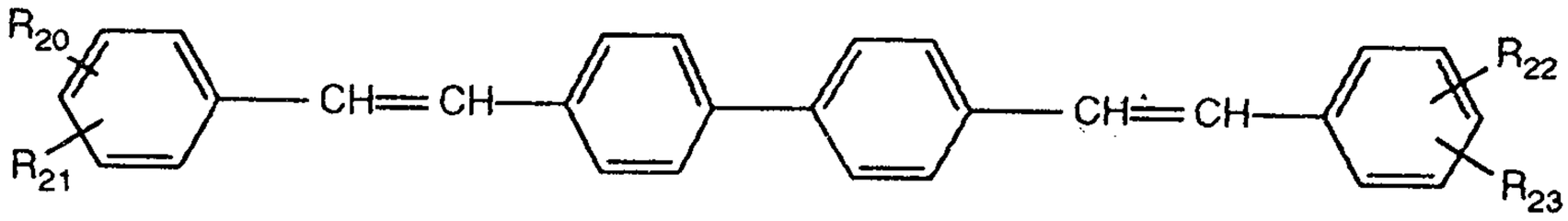
wherein R_{16}, R_{17}, R_{18} and R_{19} may each independently of one another be


, 
, 
,


, $-N(C_1$-C_6hydroxyalkyl$)_2$, $-N(C_1$-C_6alkyl$)(C_1$-C_6hydroxyalkyl), $-NH_2$, $-N(C_1$-C_6alkyl$)_2$, C_1-C_6alkoxy, Cl, -NH-(C_1-C_6sulfoalkyl) or -NH-(C_1-C_6hydroxyalkyl).

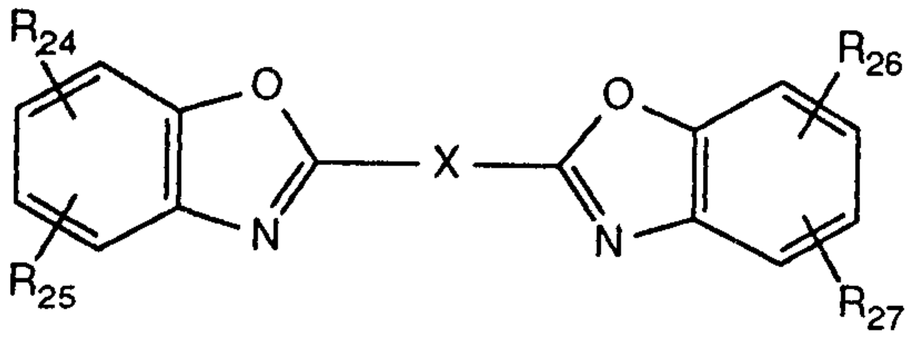
Bis(styryl)biphenyls of general formula (7)

(7)

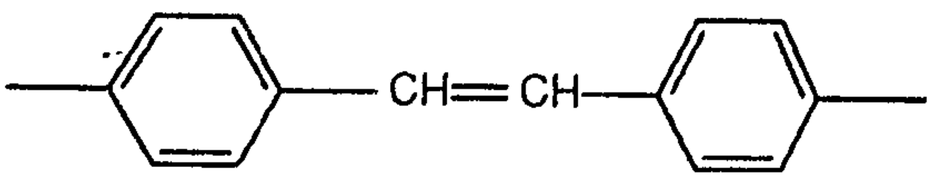
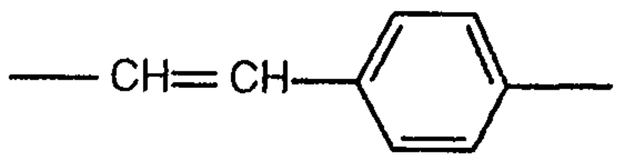
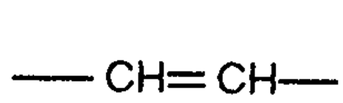
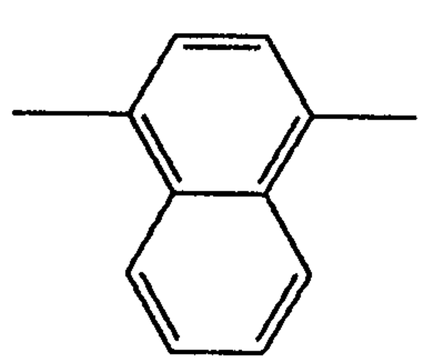
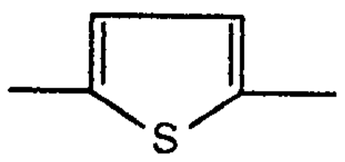


and e.g. the alkali metal salts thereof,
wherein R_{20}, R_{21}, R_{22} and R_{23} may each independently of one another be
H, sulfo or sulfino, $-SO_2N(C_1\text{-}C_6alkyl)_2$, $-SO_2\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_6alkyl)$, $-OCH_3$, -CN, -Cl, $-COOCH_3$ or $-CON(C_1\text{-}C_6alkyl)_2$.

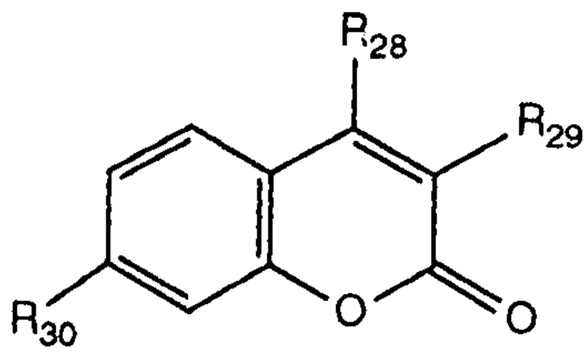
Bis(benzoxazolyl) derivatives of general formula (8)

(8) 

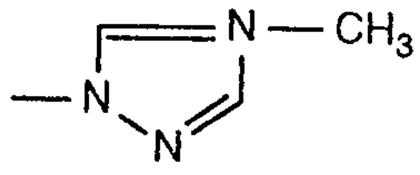
wherein R_{24}, R_{25}, R_{26} and R_{27} may each independently of one another be
H, branched or unbranched C_1-C_6alkyl, preferably tert-butyl, tert-butylphenyl or $-COOC_1\text{-}C_6alkyl$ and

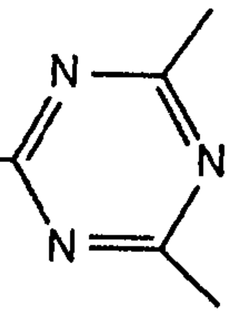
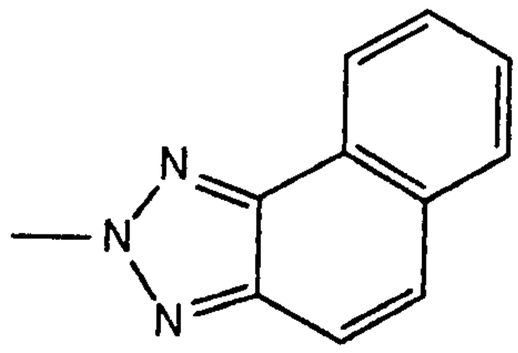
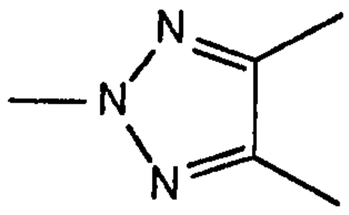
X may be , , , , or .

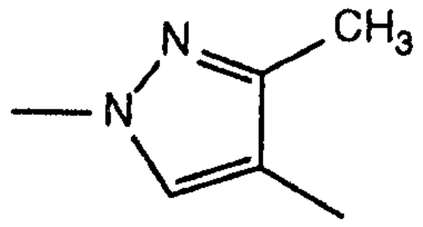
Coumarins of general formula (9)

(9) 

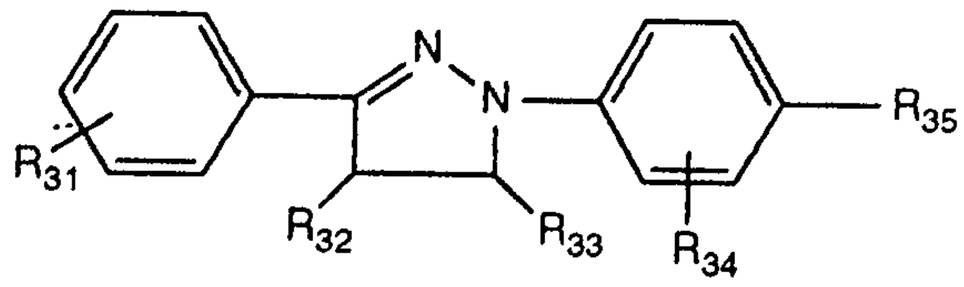
and e.g. the alkali metal salts thereof,
wherein
R_{28} may be H, C_1-C_6alkyl or C_1-C_6carboxy,

R_{29} may be H, phenyl, carboxy-C_1-C_6alkyl or  and

R_{30} may be —HN—  ,  ,  ,

 , -O-(C_1-C_6alkyl), -N(C_1-C_6alkyl)$_2$ or -NH-CO-(C_1-C_6alkyl).

Pyrazolines of general formula (10)

(10) 

and e.g. the alkali metal salts thereof,

wherein

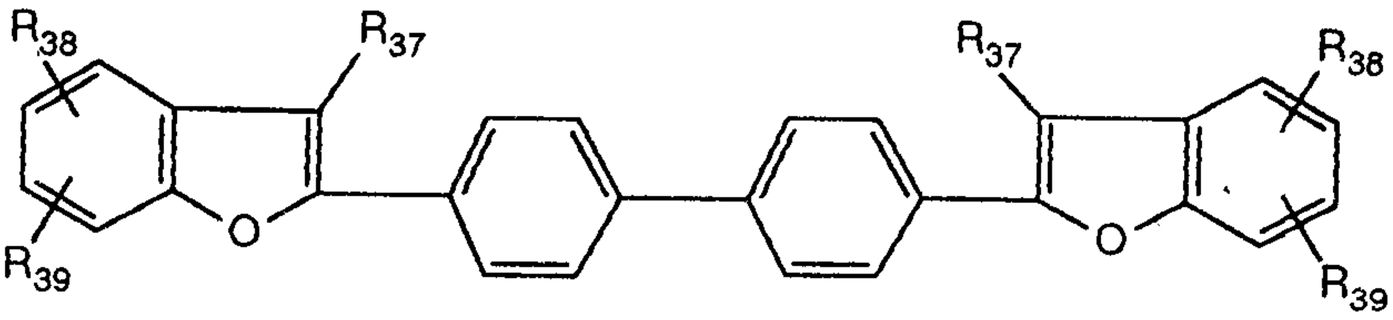
R_{31} is H, Cl or amino (including substituted amines such as methylamines, dimethylamine, diethylamine, diethanolamine, aniline),

R_{32} and R_{33} are each independently of the other H or C_1-C_6alkyl, phenyl,

R_{34} is H or Cl and

R_{35} is H, Cl, sulfo or sulfino, -SO_2N(C_1-C_6alkyl)$_2$, -SO_2-(C_1-C_6alkyl), -OCH_3, -CN, -Cl, -COO(C_1-C_6alkyl) or -CON(C_1-C_6alkyl)$_2$.

Bis(benzofuranyl)biphenyls of general formula (11)

(11) 

and e.g. the alkali metal salts thereof,
wherein R_{37}, R_{38} and R_{39} may each independently of one another be
H, halogen, CN, phenoxy, benzyloxy, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy or a sulfonic acid radical.

The aforementioned fluorescent whitening agents are known and their preparation is disclosed, inter alia, in US-A-4 093 645, Angewandte Chemie, 87, p. 693 and Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Indust. Chem. (5th edition 1991) Vol. A 18, pp. 156-167.

Dyes suitable for the process are all dyes which may suitably be used for dyeing the textiles listed above, typically azo, anthraquinone, nitro, acridone or naphthoquinone dyes.

The invention further relates to a composition for whitening polyamide containing articles having enhanced moulding stability. Such a composition, which can be applied from an aqueous bath, comprises a benzofuran-2-one of formula (1), a fluorescent whitening agent for polyamide (or a mixture thereof), in the case of dyed textiles, one or more dyes, and optional auxiliaries. Preferred compositions comprise a benzofuran-2-one of formula (1), most preferably one of formula (2) or (3), and a fluorescent whitening agent of formulae (5)-(11). The ratio of benzofuran-2-one to fluorescent whitening agent may be in the range from 100:1 to 1:100, a preferred ratio being from 1:20 to 6:1.

The composition for whitening polyamide containing articles having enhanced moulding stability is prepared by mixing the components and also adding the optional auxiliaries.

Conventional auxuliaries may be dispersants, levelling agents and surfactants such as fatty alcohol polyglycol ethers, alkyl ethoxylates, or alkyl phenol ethoxylates, anionic alkyl benzenesulfonates or linear alkyl sulfonates, alone or in conjunction with benzimidazole derivatives or ethoxylated fatty amines, as well as chelating agents such as the sodium salt of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, or bleaching agents such as sodium dithionite, as well as combinations of two or more auxiliaries.

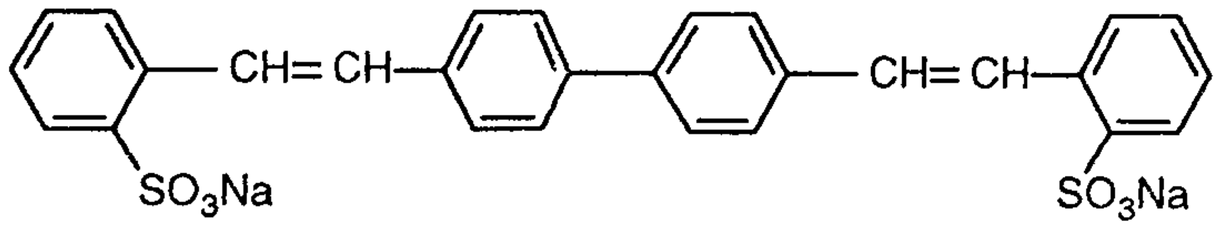
The final moulding of the textiles is carried out by conventional methods.

The invention is illustrated by the following non-limitative Examples in which parts and percentages are by weight, based on the weight of the textile material.

In the following Examples PA-6 texturised tricot is used as textile material. The fluorescent whitening agent and the benzofuran-2-one are applied by the exhaust process, in which 3 g/l of stabilised hydrosulfite (Clarit PS®) are added to the treatment bath. The treatment time is 30 minutes at a temperature of 120°C.

The whiteness is determined by the method of Ganz (Ganz, Appl. Optics 18, 1073-1078 (1979)) using a Zeiss RFC 3 spectrometer.

Example 1 (Comparative Example):
The fluorescent whitening agent of formula (12)

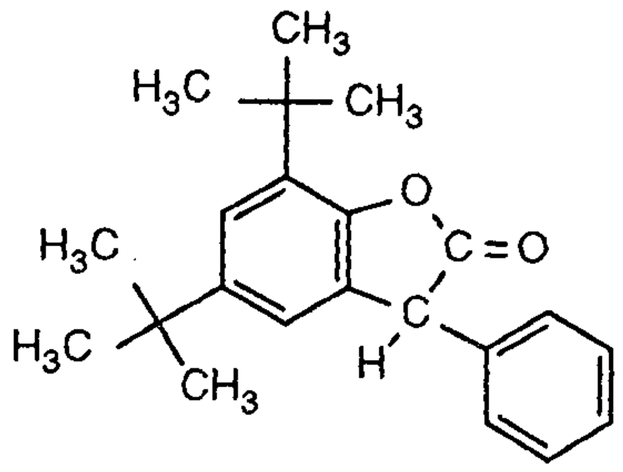


(12)

is applied at a concentration of 0.2 % from an aqueous bath. The whiteness rating is 270 units.
One half of the fabric is then subjected to the moulding test:
In a "Rhodiaceta Thermotester" (supplied by Setaran, Lyon/F) with 13 heatable metal plates, each measuring 15×35 mm, one of the middle plates is heated to a temperature of 199°C. The lower base is covered with a c. 3 mm thick wool felt underlay. The piece of fabric is moulded for 1 minute (moulding pressure c. 70 g/cm^2) and then again examined for its whiteness.

After the moulding test the loss of whiteness is about 50 units.

Example 2: The procedure of Example 1 is repeated, with the sole difference that a benzofuran-2-one of formula (2)

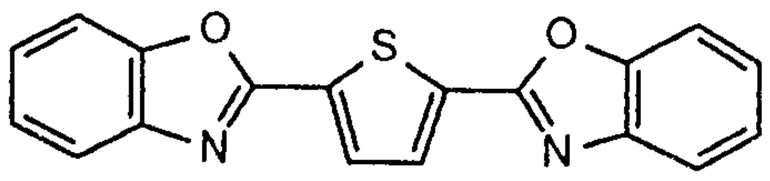


(2)

is added in the form of an aqueous dispersion in a concentration of 0.1 % to the fluorescent whitening agent in the application bath. After the moulding test according to Example 1, the loss of whiteness is about 20 units and the moulding stability is the same as in Example 1.

Example 3 (Comparitive Example)

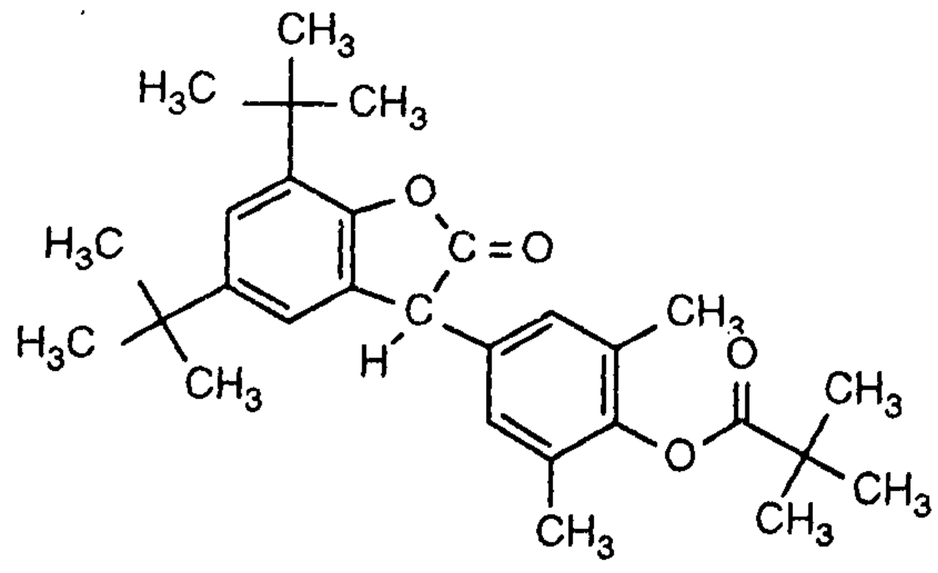
The procedure of Example 1 is repeated, with the sole difference that a fluorescent whitening agent of formula (3)



(13)

is used. After the moulding test the loss of whiteness is about 25 units.

Example 4: The procedure of Example 3 is repeated, with the sole difference that a benzofuran-2-one of formula

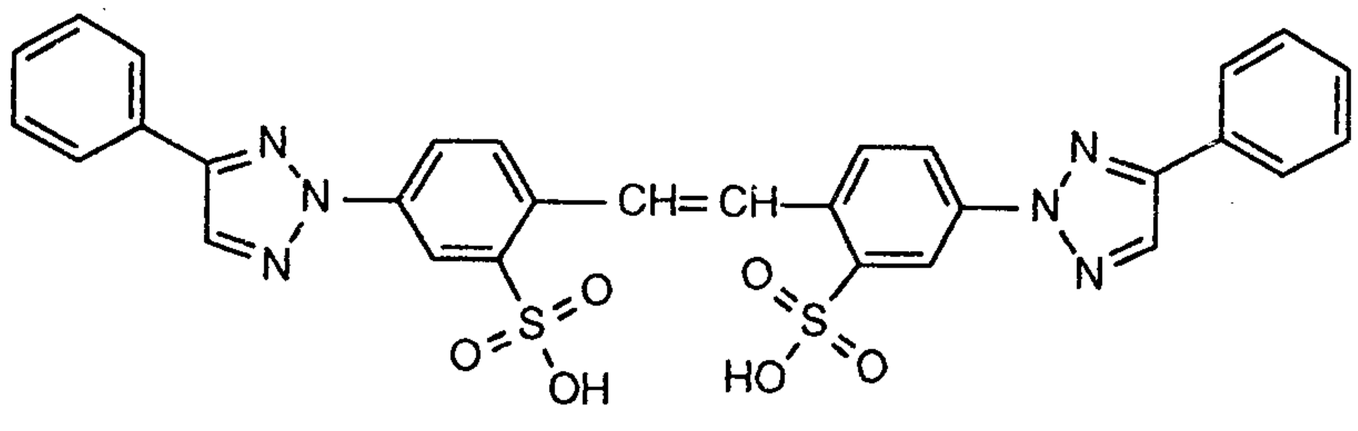


(3)

is added in the form of an aqueous dispersion in a concentration of 0.1 % to the fluorescent whitening agent in the application bath. After the moulding test according to Example 1, the loss of whiteness is about 10 units and the moulding stability is the same as in Example 3.

Example 5 (Comparative Example)

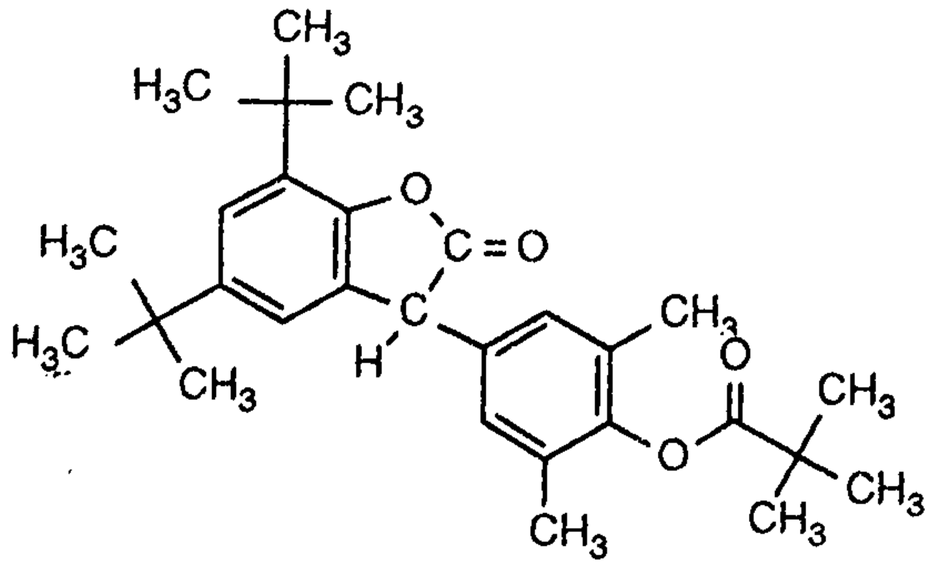
The procedure of Example 1 is repeated, with the sole difference that a fluorescent whitening agent of formula



(14)

is used. After the moulding test the loss of whiteness is about 38 units.

Example 6: The procedure of Example 5 is repeated, with the sole difference that a benzofuran-2-one of formula (3)

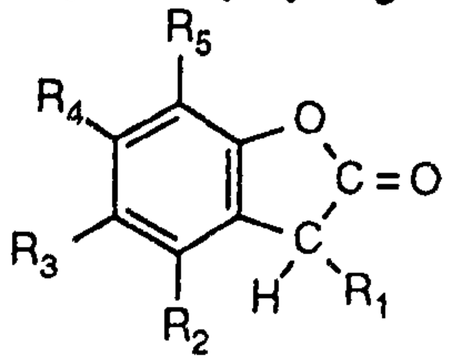


(3)

is added in the form of an aqueous dispersion in a concentration of 0.1 % to the fluorescent whitening agent in the application bath. After the moulding test according to Example 1, the loss of whiteness is about 16 units and the moulding stability is the same as in Example 5.

What is claimed is:

1. A process for the preparation of polyamide containing articles having enhanced moulding stability, which comprises applying to the fibres before, during or after whitening and optionally dyeing the fibres, a compound of formula



(1)

wherein

R_1 is unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, wherein the substituents are selected from 1 to 3 alkyl radicals together containing not more than 18 carbon atoms, C_1-C_{12}alkoxy, C_1-C_{18}acyloxy, C_1-C_{18}alkoxycarbonyl, chloro or a mixture of these substituents,

R_2 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl,

R_4 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, unsubstituted or C_1-C_4alkyl-substituted C_5-C_7cycloalkyl, phenyl, C_7-C_{12}phenylalkyl or chloro,

R_3 has the meaning of R_2 or R_4 or is a radical of formula $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-OR_6$,

$-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-N(R_7)_2$, $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-O-A-O-C(=O)-(CH_2)_n-E$,

$-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-NR_8-A-NR_8-C(=O)-(CH_2)_n-E$, $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-NR_8-A-O-C(=O)-(CH_2)_n-E$,

$-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-N$ piperazine $N-C(=O)-(CH_2)_n-E$, $-CH_2-S-R_9$, $-CH(C_6H_5)-C(=O)-OR_6$ or

-D-E, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2,

R_6 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, C_2-C_{18}alkyl which is interrupted by oxygen or sulfur, dialkylaminoalkyl containing a total of 3 to 16 carbon atoms, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or phenyl which is substituted by 1 to 3 alkyl radicals together

containing not more than 18 carbon atoms,

the substituents R_7 are each independently of the other hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, phenyl which is substituted by 1 or 2 alkyl radicals together containing not more than 16 carbon atoms, a radical of formula $-C_2H_4OH$, $-C_2H_4-O-C_mH_{2m+1}$ or $-C_2H_4-O-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-R_{10}$, or, together with the linking nitrogen atom, form a piperidino or morpholino radical,

m is 1 to 18,

R_{10} is hydrogen, C_1-C_{22}alkyl or C_5-C_{12}cycloalkyl,

A is alkylene of 2 to 22 carbon atoms which may be interrupted by nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur,

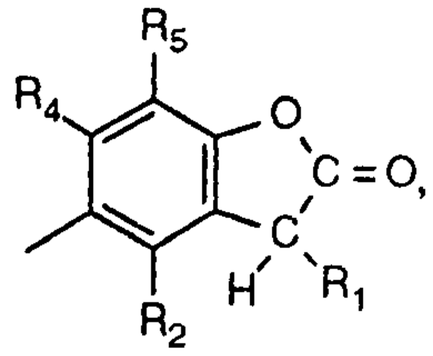
R_8 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, phenyl which is substituted by 1 or 2 alkyl radicals together containing not more than 16 carbon atoms, or benzyl,

R_9 is C_1-C_{18}alkyl,

D is -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$ or $-C(R_{11})_2-$,

the substituents R_{11} are each independently of the other hydrogen, alkyl together containing not more than 16 carbon atoms, phenyl or a radical of formula $-(CH_2)_n-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-OR_6$ or $-(CH_2)_n-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-N(R_7)_2$, wherein n, R_6 and R_7 have the given meanings,

E is a radical of formula



wherein R_1, R_2 and R_4 have the given meanings, and

R_5 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{30}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, chloro or a radical of formula $-CH_2-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-OR_6$ or $-CH_2-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-N(R_7)_2$, wherein R_6 and R_7 have the given meanings, or

R_5 together with R_4 form a tetramethylene radical.

2. A process according to claim 1 which comprises the use of a compound of formula (1), wherein R_2 is hydrogen.

3. A process according to claim 1 which comprises the use of a compound of formula (1), wherein R_3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, chloro or a radical of formula $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-OR_6$, $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-N(R_7)_2$ or -D-E, wherein n, R_6, R_7, D and E are as defined in claim 1.

4. A process according to claim 3 which comprises the use of a compound of formula (1), wherein R_6 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl.

5. A process according to claim 1 which comprises the use of a compound of formula (1), wherein

R_1 is unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, wherein the substituents are 1 or 2 alkyl radicals together containing not more than 12 carbon atoms, C_1-C_{12}acyloxy or a mixture of these substituents;

R_2 is hydrogen,

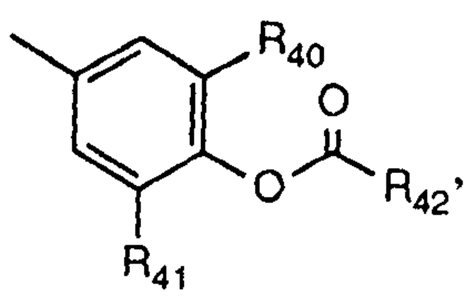
R_4 is hydrogen or C_1-C_{12}alkyl,

R_3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-OR_6$, $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-N(R_7)_2$ or -D-E,

R_5 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{20}alkyl, $-CH_2-C(=O)-OR_6$ or $-CH_2-C(=O)-N(R_7)_2$, or

R_5 together with R_4 form a tetramethylene radical, and n, R_6, R_7, D and E are as defined in claim 1.

6. A process according to claim 5 which comprises the use of a compound of formula (1), wherein

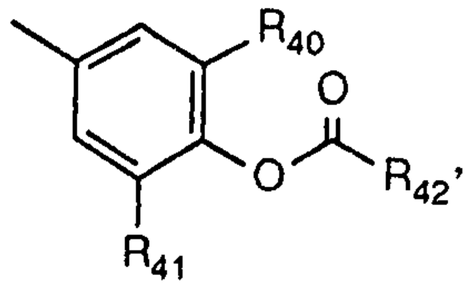
R_1 is phenyl or , wherein R_{40}, R_{41} and R_{42} are each independently of one another hydrogen or C_1-C_8alkyl,

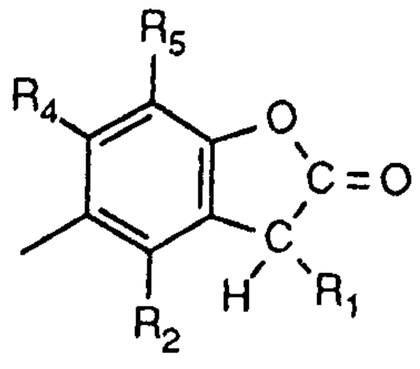
R_3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl or -D-E,

R_2 and R_4 are each independently of the other hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl, and

R_5 is C_1-C_{20}alkyl,
and D and E are as defined in claim 5.

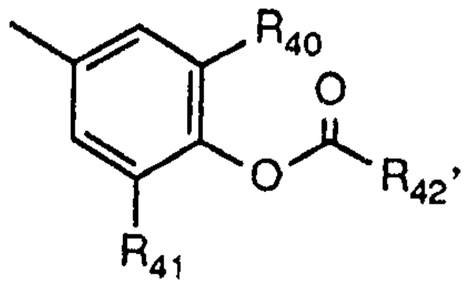
7. A process according to claim 6 which comprises the use of a compound of formula (1), wherein

R_1 is phenyl or , wherein R_{40} ,R_{41} and R_{42} are each independently of one another hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl,
R_3 is C_1-C_4alkyl or -D-E,
R_2 and R_4 are hydrogen, and
R_5 is C_1-C_4alkyl or cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl,
and D is $-C(R_{11})_2-$ and E is a radical of formula

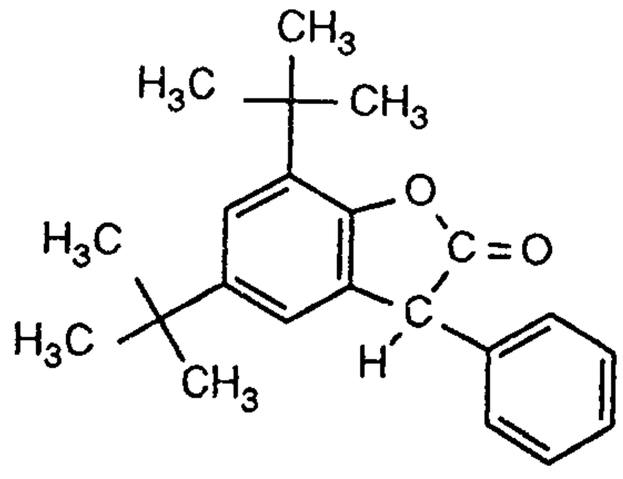


and the substituents R_{11} are identical or different and are each C_1-C_4alkyl, and R_1, R_2, R_4 and R_5 have the given meanings.

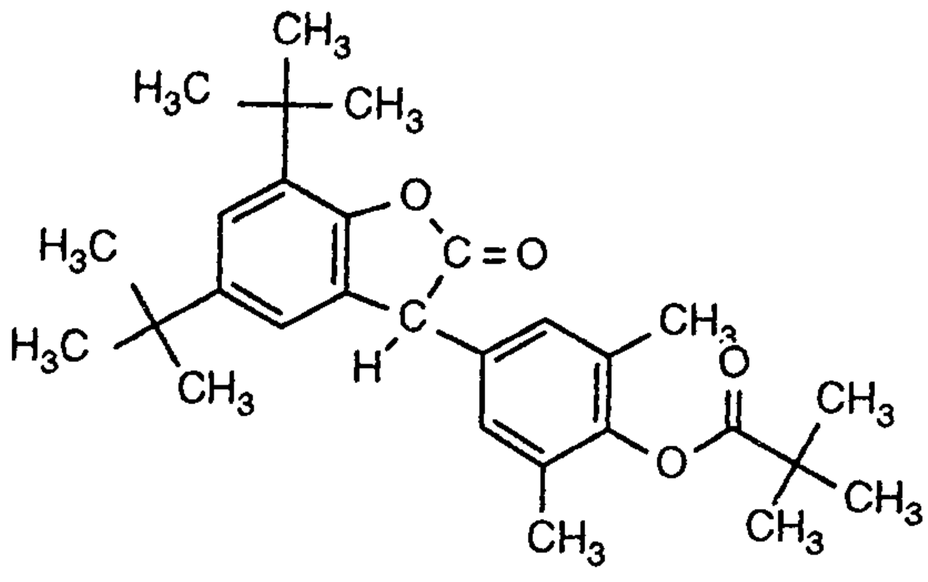
8. A process according to claim 1 which comprises the use of a compound of formula (1), wherein

R_1 is phenyl or , wherein R_{40} ,R_{41} and R_{42} are each independently of one another C_1-C_4alkyl,
R_4 and R_2 are hydrogen,
R_3 and R_5 are each independently of the other C_1-C_{18}alkyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl.

9. A process according to claim 1 which comprises the use of a compound of formula (2) or (3)



(2)



(3).

10. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 9 which comprises the use of a fluorescent whitening agent having the basic structure of a bis(triazinylamino)stilbene, bis(triazolyl)stilbene, bis(styryl)biphenyl, bis(benzoxazolyl) derivative, coumarin, pyrazoline or bis(benzofuranyl)biphenyl.

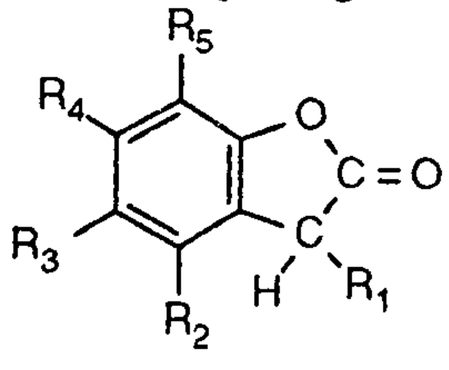
11. A process according to claim 10 which comprises the ue of a mixture of a fluorescent whitening agent and one or more than one dye selected from the group consisting of azo, anthraquinone, niro, acridone or naphthoquinone dyes.

12. A process according to claim 1 which comprises the use of a compound of formula (1) in a concentration of 0.01 to 3 % in the exhaust process and in an amount of 0.1 to 30 g/l in the continuous process.

13. A process according to claim 12 which comprises the use of a compound of formula (1) in a concentration of 0.03 to 0.3 % in the exhaust process and in an amount of 0.2 to 2 g/l in the continuous process.

14. A polyamide containing article having enhanced moulding stability, which article has been treated by the process as claimed in claim 1.

15. A composition comprising a benzofuran-2-one of formula (1)



(1)

wherein

R_1 is unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, wherein the substituents are selected from 1 to 3 alkyl radicals together containing not more than 18 carbon atoms, C_1-C_{12}alkoxy, C_1-C_{18}acyloxy, C_1-C_{18}alkoxycarbonyl, chloro or a mixture of these substituents,

R_2 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl,

R_4 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, unsubstituted or C_1-C_4alkyl-substituted C_5-C_7cycloalkyl, phenyl, C_7-C_{12}phenylalkyl or chloro,

R_3 has the meaning of R_2 or R_4 or is a radical of formula $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-OR_6$,

$-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-N(R_7)_2$, $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-O-A-O-C(=O)-(CH_2)_n-E$,

$-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-NR_8-A-NR_8-C(=O)-(CH_2)_n-E$, $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-NR_8-A-O-C(=O)-(CH_2)_n-E$,

$-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-N$(piperazine)$N-C(=O)-(CH_2)_n-E$, $-CH_2-S-R_9$, $-CH(C_6H_5)-C(=O)-OR_6$ or

-D-E, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2,

R_6 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, C_2-C_{18}alkyl which is interrupted by oxygen or sulfur, dialkylaminoalkyl containing a total of 3 to 16 carbon atoms, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or phenyl which is substituted by 1 to 3 alkyl radicals together containing not more than 18 carbon atoms,

the substituents R_7 are each independently of the other hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, phenyl which is substituted by 1 or 2 alkyl radicals together containing not more than 16 carbon atoms, a radical of formula

$-C_2H_4OH$, $-C_2H_4-O-C_mH_{2m+1}$ or $-C_2H_4-O-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-R_{10}$, or, together with the linking nitrogen atom, form a piperidino or morpholino radical,

m is 1 to 18,

R_{10} is hydrogen, C_1-C_{22}alkyl or C_5-C_{12}cycloalkyl,

A is alkylene of 2 to 22 carbon atoms which may be interrupted by nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur,

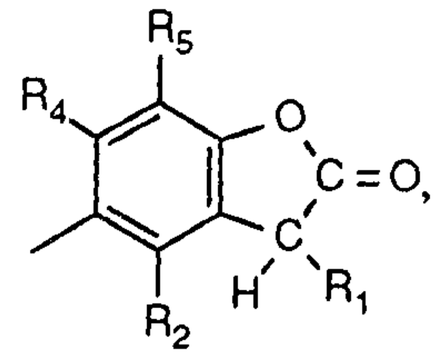
R_8 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, phenyl which is substituted by 1 or 2 alkyl radicals together containing not more than 16 carbon atoms, or benzyl,

R_9 is C_1-C_{18}alkyl,

D is -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$ or $-C(R_{11})_2-$,

the substituents R_{11} are each independently of the other hydrogen, alkyl together containing not more than 16 carbon atoms, phenyl or a radical of formula $-(CH_2)_n-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-OR_6$ or $-(CH_2)_n-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-N(R_7)_2$, wherein n, R_6 and R_7 have the given meanings,

E is a radical of formula



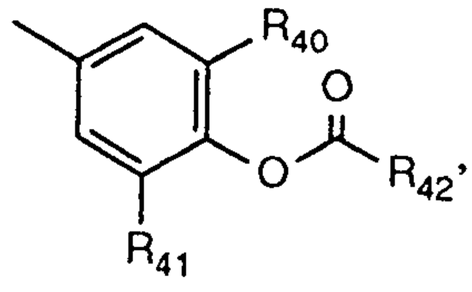
wherein R_1, R_2 and R_4 have the given meanings, and

R_5 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{30}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, chloro or a radical of formula $-CH_2-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-OR_6$ or $-CH_2-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-N(R_7)_2$, wherein R_6 and R_7 have the given meanings, or

R_5 together with R_4 form a tetramethylene radical,

a fluorescent whitening agent for polyamide or a mixture thereof and optionally a dye or a dye mixture as well as optional auxiliaries.

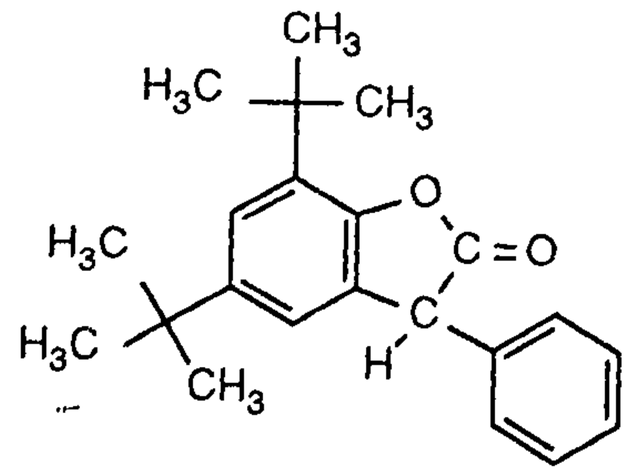
16. A composition according to claim 15, wherein the benzofuran-2-one is a compound of formula (1), wherein

R_1 is phenyl or , wherein R_{40} ,R_{41} and R_{42} are each independently of one another C_1-C_4alkyl,

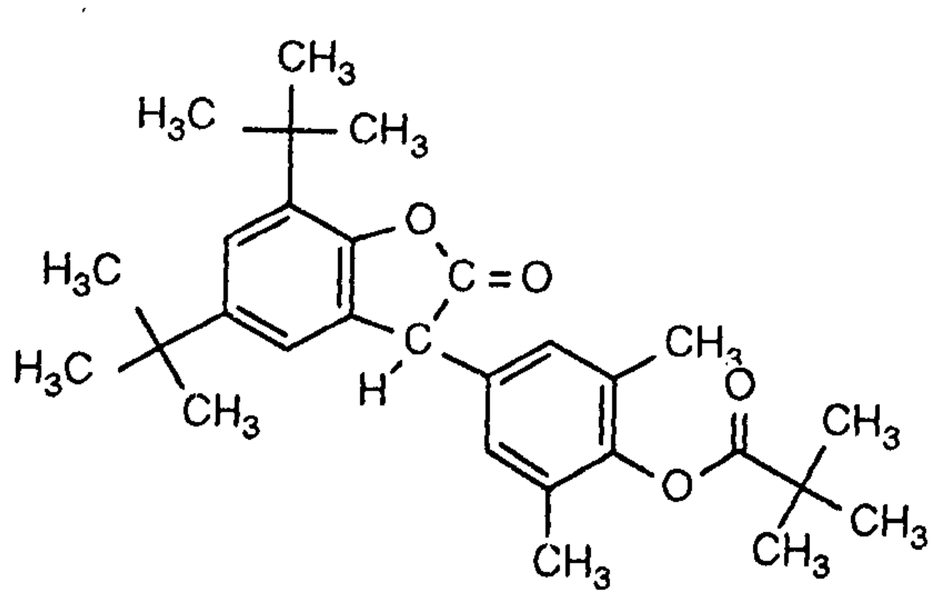
R_4 and R_2 are hydrogen,

R_3 and R_5 are each independently of the other C_1-C_{18}alkyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl.

17. A composition according to claim 15, wherein the benzofuran-2-one is a compound of formula (2) or (3)



(2)



(3).

18. A composition according to claim 15, wherein the fluorescent whitening agent has the basic structure of a bis(triazinylamino)stilbene, bis(triazolyl)stilbene, bis(styryl)biphenyl, bis(benzoxazolyl) derivative, coumarin, pyrazoline or bis(benzofuranyl)biphenyl.

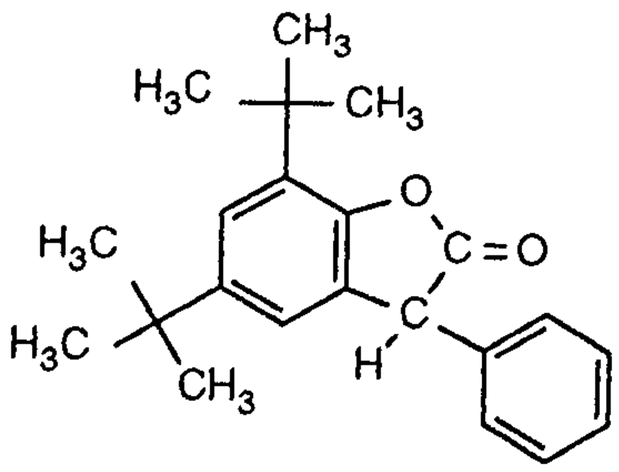
19. A composition according to claim 15, which contains a dye or a mixture of dyes selected from the group consisting of the azo and anthraquinone dyes.

20. A composition according to either claim 15 or claim 18, wherein the ratio of the benzofuran-2-one to the fluorescent whitening agent is in the range from 100:1 to 1:100.

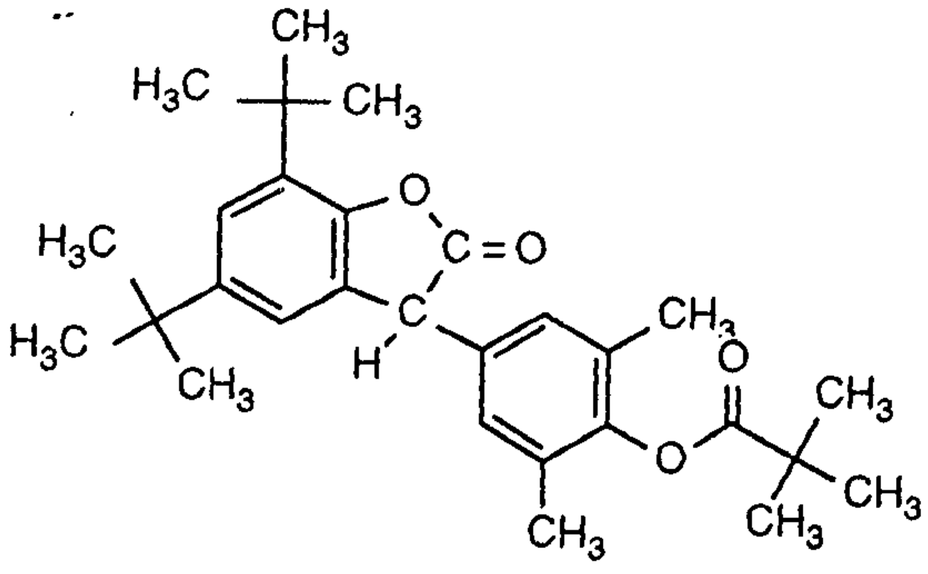
21. A composition according to claim 20, wherein the ratio of the benzofuran-2-one to the fluorescent whitening agent is in the range from 1:20 to 6:1.

22. A composition according to either claim 15 or claim 19, wherein the ratio of the benzofuran-2-one to the dye or mixture of dyes is in the range from 50:1 to 1:50.

23. A composition according to either claim 15 or claim 17, wherein the benzofuran-2-one is a compound of formula (2) or (3)



(2)



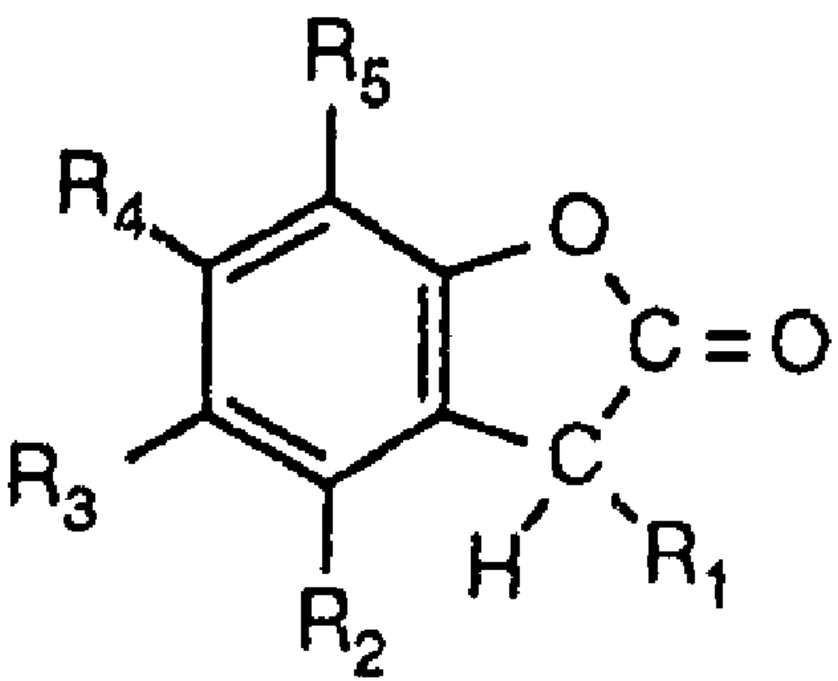
(3)

and the fluorescent whitening agent has the basic structure of a bis(styryl)biphenyl, a bis(benzoxazolyl) derivative or a bis(triazolyl)stilbene.

24. A process for the preparation of a composition as claimed in claim 15 by mixing the components and adding optional auxiliaries.

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(1)