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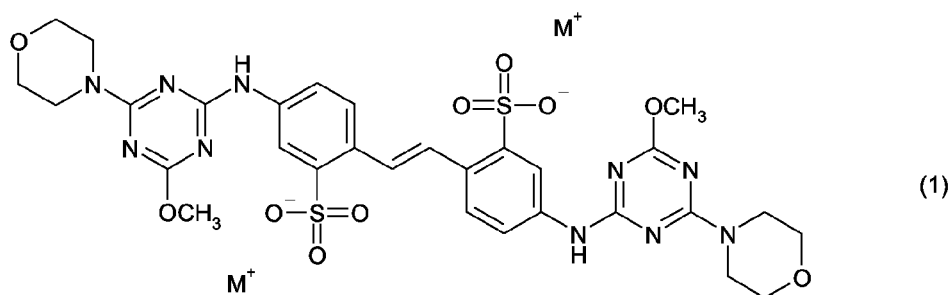
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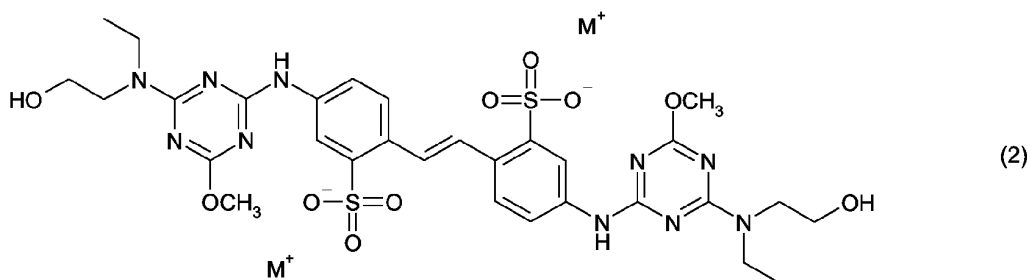
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(54) Process for the treatment of textile fibre materials

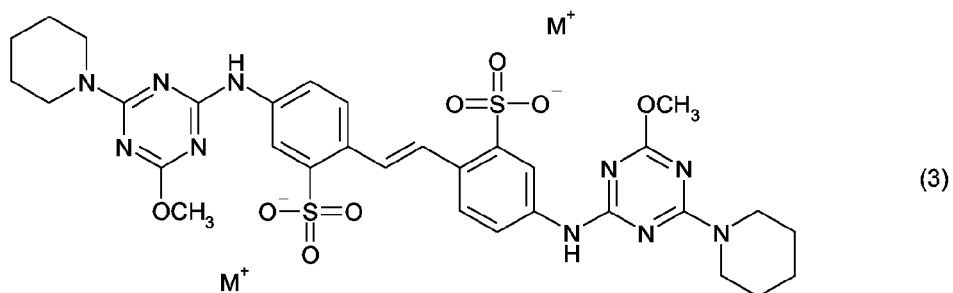
(57) Detergent compositions comprising
at least one compound of formula

(1)

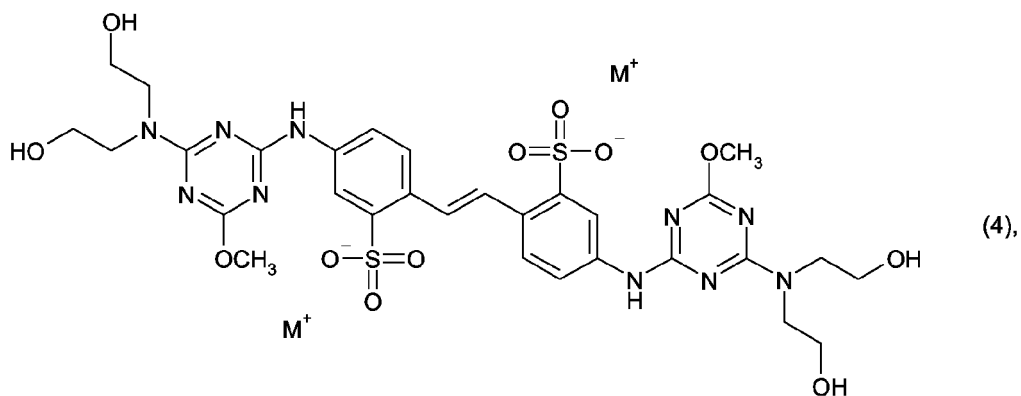


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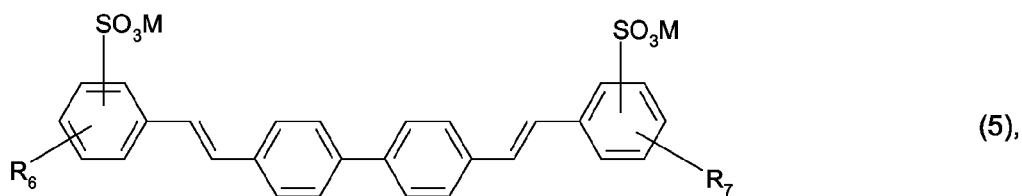
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or



wherein M is hydrogen or cation
together with at least one compound of formula



wherein

R_6 and R_7 , independently of each other, are hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_1 - C_8 alkoxy or halogen, and M is as defined above under formulae (1) to (4), the novel mixtures of compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4), and (5) and detergent compositions containing compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4).

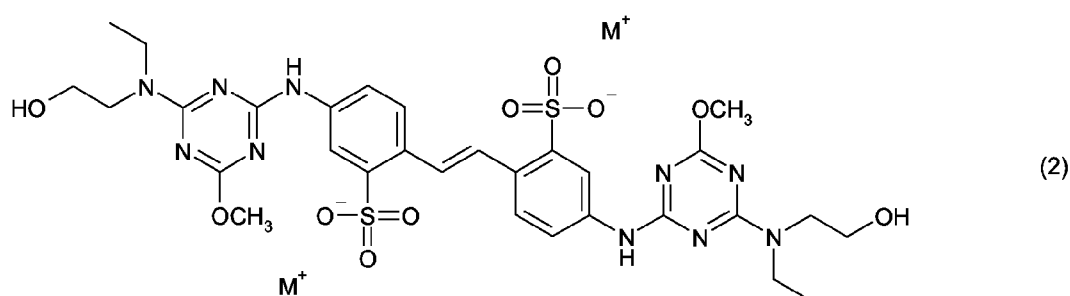
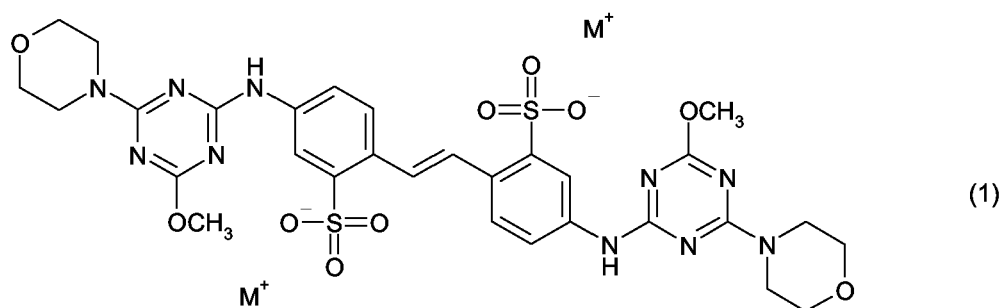
Description

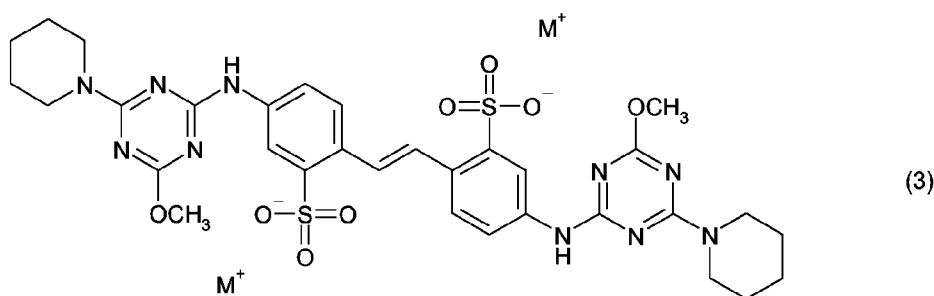
[0001] The present invention is directed to detergent formulations containing certain fluorescent whitening agents or mixtures of fluorescent whitening agents, as well as to mixtures of fluorescent whitening agents.

[0002] It is commonly known to use fluorescent whitening agents in detergent formulations. They exhaust during the treatment on to the material to be washed and, by virtue of their special light absorption/emission property, result in elimination of the yellowish shades.

[0003] However there is still a need to find improved fluorescent whitening agents for this application. It has now been found that mixtures of the following compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4), and (5) possess superior properties with regard to, for example, solubility, build-up properties, light-fastness degree of whiteness, and also possess excellent white aspects in the solid state. The whiteness properties, like whiteness maintenance, can even be enhanced by the use of mixtures of compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4), and (5) in detergents containing cellulase, protease, amylase or lipase enzymes. Favourable results are even obtained at low washing temperatures.

[0004] Accordingly, the present invention provides, as a first aspect, a detergent composition comprising at least one compound of formula





isobutoxy, sec.-butoxy, tert.-butoxy, or linear or branched higher alkoxy groups. Preferred are C₁-C₄alkoxy groups, especially methoxy or ethoxy. Highly preferred is methoxy.

[0007] Halogen may be fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine, preferably chlorine.

[0008] The cation M is preferably an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, ammonium or a cation formed from an amine. Preferred are Na, K, Ca, Mg, ammonium, mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-C₁-C₄alkylammonium, mono-, di- or tri-C₂-C₄-hydroxyalkylammonium or ammonium that is di- or tri-substituted with a mixture of C₁-C₄-alkyl and C₂-C₄-hydroxyalkyl groups. Highly preferred is sodium.

[0009] M is preferably hydrogen, an alkaline- or alkaline earth-metal, or ammonium, especially sodium.

[0010] R₆ and R₇ are preferably hydrogen. Each of the sulfo groups indicated in formula (5) are preferably bonded in ortho position. Interesting compounds of formula (5) are those wherein R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen and each of the sulfo groups indicated in formula (5) are bonded in ortho position.

[0011] In the mixtures of compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4), and (5) the molar ratio of compound (1), (2), (3) or (4) to compound (5) is usually in the range of from 0.1:99.9 to 99.9:0.1, preferably from 1:99 to 99:1 and more preferably from 5:95 to 95:5. Highly preferred is a molar ratio of from 10:90 to 90:10, especially 20:80 to 80:20. Most important is a molar ratio of from 30:70 to 70:30, especially 40:60 to 60:40.

[0012] The compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) are known or can be prepared in analogy to known processes.

[0013] Compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) and (4) can for example be prepared by first reacting cyanuric chloride with methanol, reacting the product obtained with 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulfonic acid and then reacting the intermediate with the corresponding amines.

[0014] Furthermore, the present invention is directed to mixtures of compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4), and (5). As to compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) the preferences given above apply. Compounds of formula (5) wherein R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen and each of the sulfo groups indicated in formula (5) are bonded in ortho position are preferred. In such mixtures, the molar ratio of compound (1), (2), (3) or (4) to compound (5) is usually in the range of from 0.1:99.9 to 99.9:0.1, preferably from 1:99 to 99:1 and more preferably from 5:95 to 95:5. Highly preferred is a molar ratio of from 10:90 to 90:10, especially 20:80 to 80:20. Most important is a molar ratio of from 30:70 to 70:30, especially 40:60 to 60:40.

[0015] The detergent compositions used preferably comprise

- i) 1-70% of an anionic surfactant and/or a nonionic surfactant;
- ii) 0-75% of a builder;
- iii) 0-30% of a peroxide;
- iv) 0-10% of a peroxide activator; and
- v) 0.001-5% of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4), and (5), each by weight, based on the total weight of the detergent.

[0016] More preferably the detergent compositions used comprise

- i) 5-70% of an anionic surfactant and/or a nonionic surfactant;
- ii) 5-70% of a builder;
- iii) 0.5-30% of a peroxide;
- iv) 0.5-10% of a peroxide activator and/or 0.1-2% of a bleaching catalyst; and
- v) 0.01-5% of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4), and (5), each by weight, based on the total weight of the detergent.

[0017] In general, an amount of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4), and (5) of 0.001-5%, especially an amount of 0.01-5% is used. Highly preferred is an amount of 0.05-5%, especially 0.05 to 2%. In general, amounts given in percent are to be understood as being percent by weight, based on the total weight, unless otherwise stated.

[0018] The detergent may be formulated as a solid, as an aqueous liquid comprising, e.g., 5-50, preferably 10-35% water or as a non-aqueous liquid detergent, containing not more than 5, preferably 0-1 wt.% of water, and based on a suspension of a builder in a non-ionic surfactant, as described, e.g., in GB-A-2158454.

[0019] The anionic surfactant component may be, e.g., an alkylbenzenesulfonate, an alkylsulfate, an alkylethersulfate, an olefinsulfonate, an alkanesulfonate, a fatty acid salt, an alkyl or alkenyl ether carboxylate or an α -sulfofatty acid salt or an ester thereof. Preferred are alkylbenzenesulfonates having 10 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl group, alkylsulfates having 8 to 18 carbon atoms, alkylethersulfates having 8 to 18 carbon atoms, and fatty acid salts being derived from palm oil or tallow and having 8 to 18 carbon atoms. The average molar number of ethylene oxide added in the alkylethersulfate is preferably 1 to 20, preferably 1 to 10. The salts are preferably derived from an alkaline metal like sodium and potassium, especially sodium. Highly preferred carboxylates are alkali metal sarcosinates of formula R-CO(R¹)

CH_2COOM^1 in which R is alkyl or alkenyl having 9-17 carbon atoms in the alkyl or alkenyl radical, R^1 is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl and M^1 is alkali metal, especially sodium.

[0020] The nonionic surfactant component may be, e.g., primary and secondary alcohol ethoxylates, especially the $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{20}$ aliphatic alcohols ethoxylated with an average of from 1 to 20 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of alcohol, and more especially the $\text{C}_{10}\text{-C}_{15}$ primary and secondary aliphatic alcohols ethoxylated with an average of from 1 to 10 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of alcohol. Non-ethoxylated nonionic surfactants include alkylpolyglycosides, glycerol monoethers, and polyhydroxyamides (glucamide).

[0021] The total amount of anionic surfactant and nonionic surfactant is preferably 5-50% by weight, preferably 5-40% by weight and more preferably 5-30% by weight. As to these surfactants it is preferred that the lower limit is 10% by weight.

[0022] The builder component may be an alkali metal phosphate, especially a tripolyphosphate; a carbonate or bicarbonate, especially the sodium salts thereof; a silicate or disilicate; an aluminosilicate; a polycarboxylate; a polycarboxylic acid; an organic phosphonate; or an aminoalkylene poly (alkylene phosphonate); or a mixture of these.

Preferred silicates are crystalline layered sodium silicates of the formula $\text{NaHSi}_m\text{O}_{2m+1} \cdot p\text{H}_2\text{O}$ or $\text{Na}_2\text{Si}_m\text{O}_{2m+1} \cdot p\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in which m is a number from 1.9 to 4 and p is 0 to 20.

Preferred aluminosilicates are the commercially-available synthetic materials designated as Zeolites A, B, X, and HS, or mixtures of these. Zeolite A is preferred.

Preferred polycarboxylates include hydroxypolycarboxylates, in particular citrates, polyacrylates and their copolymers with maleic anhydride.

Preferred polycarboxylic acids include nitrilotriacetic acid and ethylene diamine tetra-acetic acid.

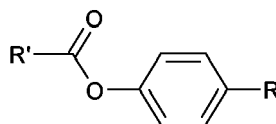
Preferred organic phosphonates or aminoalkylene poly (alkylene phosphonates) are alkali metal ethane 1-hydroxy diphosphonates, nitrilo trimethylene phosphonates, ethylene diamine tetra methylene phosphonates and diethylene triamine penta methylene phosphonates.

[0023] The amount of builders is preferably 5-70% by weight, preferably 5-60% by weight and more preferably 10-60% by weight. As to the builders it is preferred that the lower limit is 15% by weight, especially 20% by weight.

[0024] Suitable peroxide components include, for example, the organic and inorganic peroxides (like sodium peroxides) known in the literature and available commercially that bleach textile materials at conventional washing temperatures, for example at from 5 to 95°C. In particular, the organic peroxides are, for example, monoperoxides or polyperoxides having alkyl chains of at least 3, preferably 6 to 20, carbon atoms; in particular diperoxydicarboxylates having 6 to 12 C atoms, such as diperoxyperazates, diperoxypersebacates, diperoxyphthalates and/or diperoxydodecanedioates, especially their corresponding free acids, are of interest. It is preferred, however, to employ very active inorganic peroxides, such as persulphate, perborate and/or percarbonate. It is, of course, also possible to employ mixtures of organic and/or inorganic peroxides.

[0025] The amount of peroxide is preferably 0.5-30% by weight, preferably 1-20% by weight and more preferably 1-15% by weight. In case a peroxide is used, the lower limit is preferably 2% by weight, especially 5% by weight.

[0026] The peroxides, especially the inorganic peroxides, are preferably activated by the inclusion of a bleach activator. Preferred are such compounds that, under perhydrolysis conditions, yield unsubstituted or substituted perbenzo- and/or peroxy-carboxylic acids having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, especially from 2 to 4 carbon atoms. Suitable compounds include those that carry O- and/or N-acyl groups having the said number of carbon atoms and/or unsubstituted or substituted benzoyl groups. Preference is given to polyacylated alkylenediamines, especially tetraacetylenediamine (TAED), acylated glycolurils, especially tetraacetylglucuril (TAGU), N,N-diacetyl-N,N-dimethyl-urea (DDU), acylated triazine derivatives, especially 1,5-diacetyl-2,4-dioxohexahydro-1,3,5-triazine (DADHT), compounds of formula



wherein R is a sulfonate group, a carboxylic acid group or a carboxylate group, and wherein R' is linear or branched ($\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{15}$)alkyl; also activators that are known under the names SNOBS, SLOBS, NOBS and DOBA, acylated polyhydric alcohols, especially triacetin, ethylene glycol diacetate and 2,5-diacetoxy-2,5-dihydrofuran and acetylated sorbitol and mannitol and acylated sugar derivatives, especially pentaacetylglucose (PAG), sucrose polyacetate (SUPA), pentaacetylfructose, tetraacetylxylose and octaacetylactose, and acetylated, optionally N-alkylated, glucamine and glucanone. The combinations of conventional bleach activators disclosed in German Patent Application DE-A-44 43 177 may also be used. Nitrile compounds that form peroxyimide acids with peroxides are also suitable as bleach activators. Preferred are tetraacetyl ethylenediamine and nonoxolonylbenzene sulfonate.

[0027] The amount of bleach activator is preferably 0-10% by weight, preferably 0-8% by weight. In case a bleach

activator is used, the lower limit is preferably 0.5% by weight, especially 1% by weight.

[0028] Bleaching catalysts, which may be added, include, e.g., enzymatic peroxide precursors and/or metal complexes. Preferred metal complexes are manganese, cobalt or iron complexes such as manganese or iron phthalocyanines or the complexes described in EP-A-0509787. In case a bleaching catalyst is used the amount is preferably 0.005 to 2% by weight, more preferably 0.01 to 2% by weight, especially 0.05 to 2% by weight. Highly preferred is an amount of 0.1-2% by weight.

[0029] As examples for bleaching catalysts the following are mentioned:

- WO-A-95/30681 (see i.e. formula (I) and the following definition on page 1, lines 7 to 30; especially formula (I) and the following definitions given on page 2, lines 29 to page 11, line 11). Preferred ligands are those given on page 13, line 12 to page 26, line 11.
- WO-A-01/09276 (see i.e. formulae (1), (2) and (3) and the following definitions given on pages 2 and 3).
- WO-A-01/05925 (see i.e. formula (1) and the following definition on page 1, last paragraph to page 2, first paragraph. The preferences given for the metal complexes apply, see especially those of formula (2) on page 3 and those of formula (3) on page 4).
- WO-A-02/088289 (see i.e. formula (1) and the following definition on page 2. The preferences given for the metal complexes apply, see especially the ligands of formula (3) and also the preferences given on page 3, fourth paragraph to page 4, paragraph 7).

[0030] Furthermore, the detergent can optionally contain enzymes. Enzymes can be added to detergents for stain removal. The enzymes usually improve the performance on stains that are either protein- or starch-based, such as those caused by blood, milk, grass or fruit juices. Preferred enzymes are cellulases, proteases, amylases and lipases. Preferred enzymes are cellulases and proteases, especially proteases. Cellulases are enzymes which act on cellulose and its derivatives and hydrolyze them into glucose, cellobiose, cellooligosaccharide. Cellulases remove dirt and have the effect of mitigating the roughness to the touch. Examples of enzymes to be used include, but are by no means limited to, the following:

proteases as given in US-B-6,242,405, column 14, lines 21 to 32;
lipases as given in US-B-6,242,405, column 14, lines 33 to 46;
amylases as given in US-B-6,242,405, column 14, lines 47 to 56; and
cellulases as given in US-B-6,242,405, column 14, lines 57 to 64.

[0031] The enzymes can optionally be present in the detergent. When used, the enzymes are usually present in an amount of 0.01-5% by weight, preferably 0.05-5% and more preferably 0.1-4% by weight, based on the total weight of the detergent.

[0032] Further preferred additives for the detergents according to the invention are polymers that, during the washing of textiles, inhibit staining caused by dyes in the washing liquor that have been released from the textiles under the washing conditions (dye fixing agents, dye transfer inhibitors). Such polymers are preferably polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyvinylimidazoles or polyvinylpyridine N-oxides which may have been modified by the incorporation of anionic or cationic substituents, especially those having a molecular weight in the range from 5000 to 60 000, more especially from 10 000 to 50 000. Such polymers are usually used in an amount of from 0.01 to 5 %, preferably 0.05 to 5 % by weight, especially 0.1 to 2 % by weight, based on the total weight of the detergent. Preferred polymers are those given in WO-A-02/02865 (see especially page 1, last paragraph and page 2, first paragraph).

[0033] The detergents used will usually contain one or more auxiliaries such as soil suspending agents, for example sodium carboxymethylcellulose; salts for adjusting the pH, for example alkali or alkaline earth metal silicates; foam regulators, for example soap; salts for adjusting the spray drying and granulating properties, for example sodium sulphate; perfumes; and also, if appropriate, antistatic and softening agents; such as smectite clays; photobleaching agents; pigments; and/or shading agents. These constituents should, of course, be stable to any bleaching system employed. Such auxiliaries can be present in an amount of, for example, 0.1 to 20% by weight, preferably 0.5 to 10 % by weight, especially 0.5 to 5 % by weight, based on the total weight of the detergent.

[0034] The detergent compositions can take a variety of physical forms including powder, granular, tablet and liquid forms. Examples thereof are conventional powder heavy-duty detergents, compact and supercompact heavy-duty detergents and tablets, like heavy-duty detergent tablets. One important physical form is the so-called concentrated granular form adapted to be added to a washing machine.

[0035] Of importance are also the so-called compact (or supercompact) detergents. In the field of detergent manufacture, a trend has developed recently towards the production of compact detergents, which contain increased amounts of active substance. In order to minimize energy expenditure during the washing process, the compact detergents are required to operate efficiently at temperatures as low as 40°C, or even at room temperatures, e.g. at 25°C. Such detergents

usually contain only low amounts of fillers or processing aids, like sodium sulfate or sodium chloride. The amount of such fillers is usually 0-10% by weight, preferably 0-5 % by weight, especially 0-1 % by weight, based on the total weight of the detergent. Such detergents usually have a bulk density of 650-1000 g/l, preferably 700-1000 g/l and especially 750-1000 g/l.

[0036] The detergents can also be present in the form of tablets. Relevant characteristics of tablets are ease of dispensing and convenience in handling. Tablets are the most compact delivery of solid detergents and have a bulk density of, for example, 0.9 to 1.3 kg/litre. To enable fast disintegration laundry detergent tablets generally contain special disintegrants:

- Effervescent such as carbonate/hydrogencarbonate/citric acid;
- swelling agents like cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, cross-linked poly(N-vinylpyrrolidone);
- quickly dissolving materials such as Na (K) acetate, or Na (K) citrate;
- rapidly dissolving water-soluble rigid coating such as dicarboxy acids.

The tablets can also contain combinations of any of the above disintegrants.

[0037] The detergent may also be formulated as an aqueous liquid comprising 5-50, preferably 10-35% water or as a non-aqueous liquid detergent, containing not more than 5, preferably 0-1 wt.% of water. Non-aqueous liquid detergent compositions can contain other solvents as carriers. Low molecular weight primary or secondary alcohols exemplified by methanol, ethanol, propanol, and isopropanol are suitable. Monohydric alcohols are preferred for solubilizing surfactant, but polyols such as those containing from 2 to about 6 carbon atoms and from 2 to about 6 hydroxy groups (e.g., 1,3-propanediol, ethylene glycol, glycerine, and 1,2-propanediol) can also be used. The compositions may contain from 5% to 90%, typically 10% to 50% of such carriers. The detergents can also be present as the so-called "unit liquid dose" form.

[0038] This detergent treatment of textiles can be conducted as a domestic treatment in normal washing machines.

[0039] The textile fibres treated may be natural or synthetic fibres or mixtures thereof. Examples of natural fibres include vegetable fibres such as cotton, viscose, flax, rayon or linen, preferably cotton and animal fibres such as wool, mohair, cashmere, angora and silk, preferably wool. Synthetic fibres include polyester, polyamide and polyacrylonitrile fibres. Preferred textile fibres are cotton, polyamide and wool fibres, especially cotton fibres. Preferably, textile fibres treated according to the method of the present invention have a density of less than 200 g/m².

[0040] According to this process usually an amount of 0.01 to 3.0% by weight, especially 0.05 to 3.0% by weight, based on the weight of the textile fibre material, of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4), and (5) is used.

[0041] The process is usually conducted in the temperature range of from 5 to 100°C, especially 5 to 60°C. Preferred is a temperature range of 5 to 40°C, especially 5 to 35°C and more preferably 5 to 30°C.

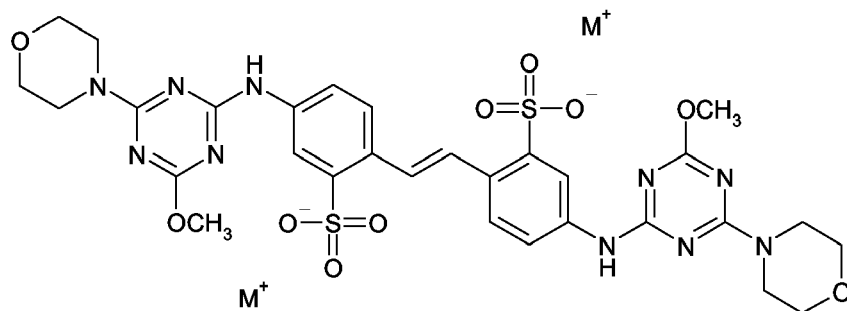
[0042] The detergent compositions herein will preferably be formulated such that, during use in aqueous cleaning operations, the wash water will have a pH of between about 6.5 and about 11, preferably between about 7.5 and 11. Laundry products are typically at pH 9-11. Techniques for controlling pH at recommended usage levels include the use of buffers, alkalis, acids, etc., and are well known to those skilled in the art.

[0043] Machine laundry methods herein typically comprise treating soiled laundry with an aqueous wash solution in a washing machine having dissolved or dispensed therein an effective amount of a machine laundry detergent composition in accordance with the invention. By an effective amount of the detergent composition it is meant, e.g., from 20 g to 300 g of product dissolved or dispersed in a wash solution of volume from 5 to 85 litres, as are typical product dosages and wash solution volumes commonly employed in conventional machine laundry methods. Examples are

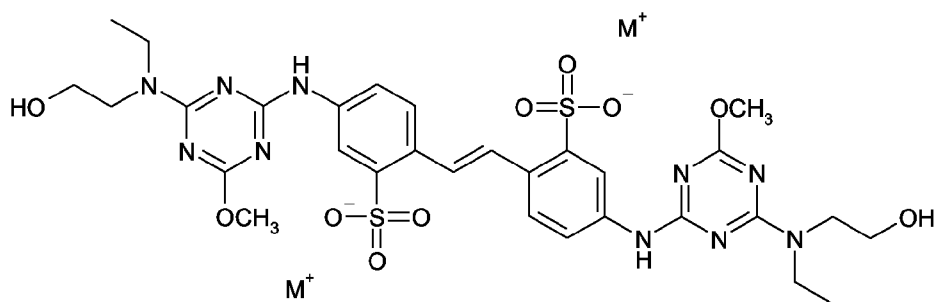
- top-loading, vertical axis U.S.-type automatic washing machines using about 45 to 83 liters of water in the wash bath, a wash cycle of about 10 to about 14 minutes and a wash water temperature of about 10 to about 50°C;
- front-loading, horizontal-axis European-type automatic washing machine using about 8 to 15 liters of water in the wash bath, a wash cycle of about 10 to about 60 minutes and a wash water temperature of about 30 to about 95°C;
- top-loading, vertical-axis Japanese-type automatic washing machine using about 26 to 52 liters of water in the wash bath, a wash cycle of about 8 to about 15 minutes and a wash water temperature of about 5 to about 25°C.

[0044] The liquor ratio is preferably 1:4 to 1:40, especially 1:4 to 1:15. Highly preferred is a liquor ratio of 1:4 to 1:10, especially 1:5 to 1:9.

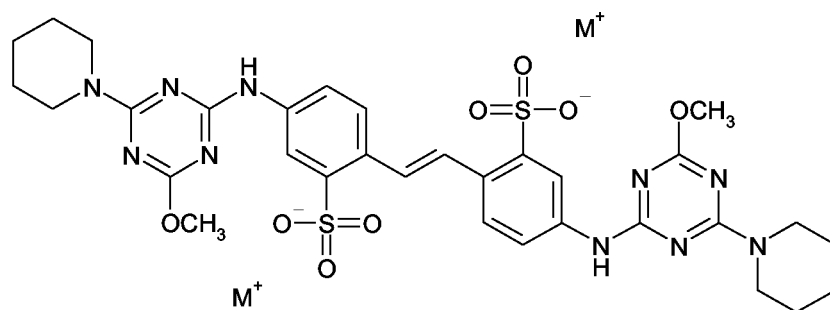
[0045] Furthermore, the present invention is directed to a detergent composition comprising at least one compound of formula



(1)

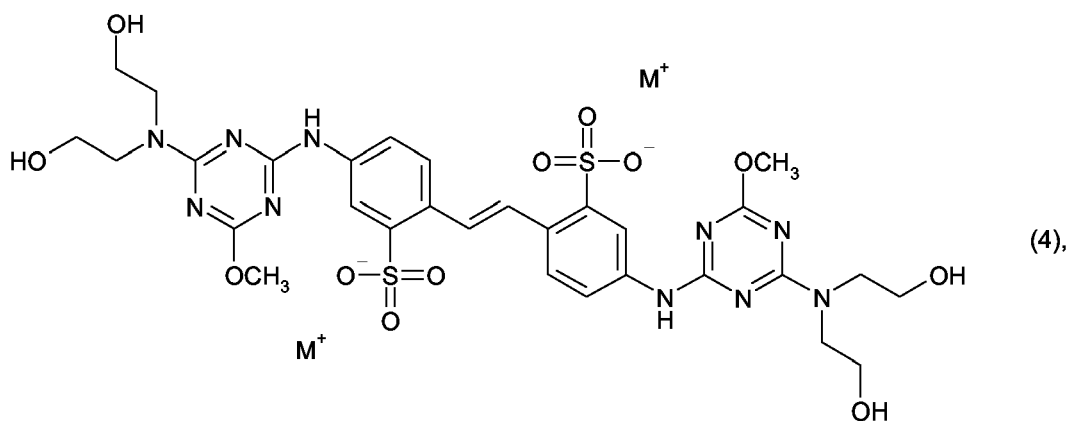


(2)



(3)

or



wherein M is hydrogen or cation,

and wherein the detergent contains at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of cellulase, protease, amylase and lipase.

[0046] Highly preferred are corresponding detergent compositions which contain enzymes as well as peroxide, peroxide activator and/or bleaching catalyst.

[0047] Preferred are detergent compositions comprising

- i) 1-70% of an anionic surfactant and/or a nonionic surfactant;
- ii) 0-75% of a builder;
- iii) 0-30% of a peroxide;
- iv) 0-10% of a peroxide activator;
- v) 0.001-5% of a compound of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4); and
- vi) 0.05-5% of at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of cellulase, protease, amylase and lipase, especially protease.

[0048] Highly preferred are detergent compositions comprising

- i) 5-70% of an anionic surfactant and/or a nonionic surfactant;
- ii) 5-70% of a builder;
- iii) 0.5-30% of a peroxide;
- iv) 0.5-10% of a peroxide activator and/or 0.1-2% of a bleaching catalyst;
- v) 0.01-5% of a compound of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4); and
- vi) 0.05-5% of at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of cellulase, protease, amylase and lipase, especially protease.

[0049] As to the enzymes, the detergents and the ingredients thereof the definitions and preferences given above apply.

[0050] A further object of the present invention is to provide a process for the domestic washing treatment of a textile fibre material wherein the textile fibre material is contacted with an aqueous solution of a detergent comprising a compound of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4) as defined above,

and wherein the detergent contains at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of cellulase, protease, amylase and lipase,

and wherein the temperature of the solution is between 5°C and 40°C, preferably between 5°C and 30°C, throughout the process.

[0051] As to the compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4) as well as for the detergents and the washing process the definitions and preferences given above apply.

[0052] The above washing treatment of textile fibers can also be conducted with the mixture of compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4) and (5).

[0053] The compounds and mixtures used according to the present invention are particularly advantageous in that they exhibit not only extremely high whitening ability, but, in addition, in many cases highly desirable water solubilities and also possess excellent white aspects in the solid state. A further advantage of the present invention is that the detergent composition delivers improved whiteness performance and fabric feel. Furthermore the compounds and es-

pecially the mixtures show very good results with respect to exhaustion properties.

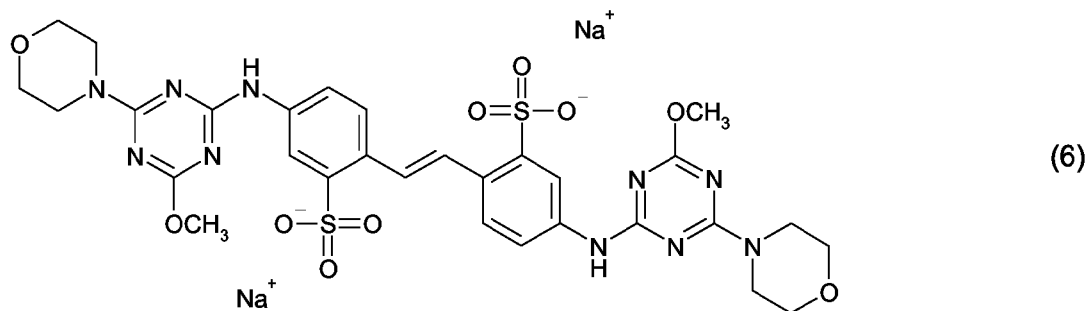
[0054] The compounds have the advantage that they are also effective in the presence of active chlorine donors, such as, for example, hypochlorite and can be used without substantial loss of the effects in washing baths with non-ionic washing agents, for example alkylphenol polyglycol ethers. Also in the presence of perborate or peracids and activators, for example tetraacetylglycoluril or ethylenediamine-tetraacetic acid are the compounds and mixtures of compounds stable both in pulverulent washing agent and in washing baths. In addition, they impart a brilliant appearance in daylight.

[0055] Compounds of the formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4) and mixtures of compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4) and (5) have also been found to be useful for the fluorescent whitening of textile materials, in which connection polyamides, wool and cotton should be singled out particularly. The textile fibres treated according to this embodiment of the present invention may be natural or synthetic fibres or mixtures thereof. Examples of natural fibres include vegetable fibres such as cotton, viscose, flax, rayon or linen, preferably cotton and animal fibres such as wool, mohair, cashmere, angora and silk, preferably wool. Synthetic fibres include polyester, polyamide and polyacrylonitrile fibres. Preferred textile fibres are cotton, polyamide and wool fibres. Preferably, textile fibres treated according to the present invention have a density of less than 1000 g/m², especially less than 500 g/m² and most preferred less than 250 g/m².

[0056] The following Examples serve to illustrate the invention; parts and percentages are by weight, unless otherwise stated.

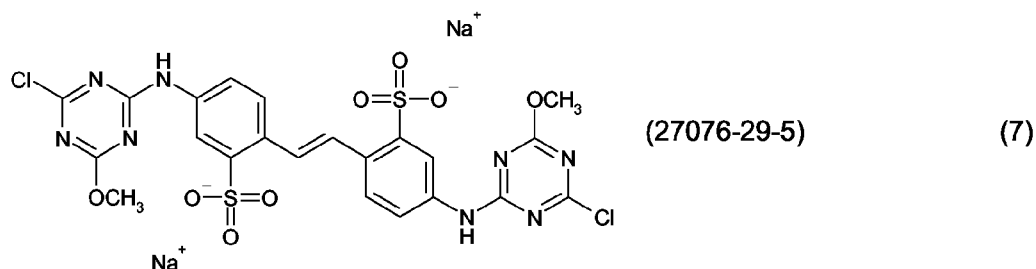
Preparation Example 1:

[0057]



In a 1 litre flask 0.05 mole of the compound of formula

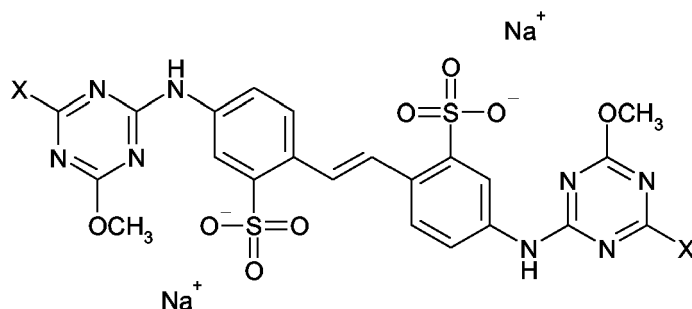
[0058]



are mixed with 600ml of water and heated to a temperature of 60°C. Then 9.5g of morpholine are added and the reaction mixture is heated to a temperature of 98°C; during heating the pH is maintained at a value between 8.5 and 9 by addition of a 4-molar aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide. The reaction mixture is cooled to 40°C and the precipitate is filtered off, washed with 100ml of a 10% aqueous sodium chloride solution and dried in vacuum. In this way, there are obtained 30g of a yellow product.

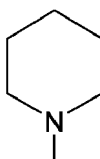
Preparation Examples 2 to 4:

[0059] The following compounds of formula



can be prepared in analogy to the process given in Preparation Example 1, by replacing 9.5 g of morpholine with an equimolar amount of the corresponding amine. X is as defined in the following Table 2. Compounds having high solubility are treated with a 6-molar aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid in order to adjusted the pH to a value of 4.5 before cooling to 50°C.

Table 2

Example	X
2	-N(CH ₂ CH ₃)CH ₂ CH ₂ OH
3	
4	-N(CH ₂ CH ₂ OH) ₂

Application Example 1:

[0060] General procedure:

A wash liquor is prepared by dissolving 0.8 g of a washing powder in 200 ml of tap water. 10 g of bleached cotton fabric is added to the bath and washed at 40°C over 15 minutes and then rinsed, spin-dried and ironed at 160°C.

[0061] The following washing powders A and B are used (amounts given in the following Tables 3a and 3b are in g):

Table 3a (Ingredients of washing powders A and B)

	A	B
Sodium laurylbenzene-sulfonate (LAS)	10g	10g
Sodium lauryl ether sulfate (AES)	3g	3g
Dobanol 23-6.5 (nonionic alcoholethoxylate)	4g	4g
Sodium tripolyphosphate	30g	-----
Zeolite A	-----	20g
Sodium carbonate	15g	15g
Sodium silicate	5g	5g

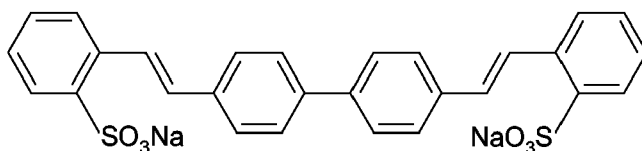
(continued)

	A	B
Sodium sulfate	11g	17g
Cellulase	1.5g	-----
Protease	-----	1.5g
Polycarboxylate (co-builder)	-----	4g
Carboxymethylcellulose	2g	2g
Perfume	0.1g	0.1g
Water	5g	5g
Fluorescent whitener or mixture of fluorescent whitener used	Xg	Xg

Table 3b (Washing powders used)

	Amount of fluorescent whitener or mixture of fluorescent whitener used	Washing powder
Compound of Prep. Ex. 1	0.3g	B
Mixture of compound of Prep. Ex. 2 and compound of formula (8) [1:1 weight ratio]	0.2g	B
Mixture of compound of Prep. Ex. 3 and compound of formula (8) [1:2 weight ratio]	0.5g	B

Constitution of compound of formula (8):

[0062]**(8)**

[0063] The cotton fabrics washed with the detergents given in Table 3b according to the general procedure show good whiteness properties.

Application Example 2:

[0064] General procedure:

A wash liquor is prepared by dissolving 0.8 g of a washing powder in 200 ml of tap water. 10 g of bleached cotton fabric is added to the bath and washed at 30°C over 15 minutes and then rinsed, spin-dried and ironed at 160°C.

The following washing powders are used (amounts given in the following Tables 4a and 4b are percent by weight, based on the total weight of the detergent):

Table 4a (Ingredients of washing powders C and D)

	C	D
Sodium laurylbenzene-sulfonate (LAS)	8%	8%
Sodium lauryl ether sulfate (AES)	3%	3%
Dobanol 23-6.5 (nonionic alcoholethoxylate)	5%	5%

(continued)

	C	D
Zeolite A	20%	20%
Polycarboxylate (co-builder)	5%	5%
Soda ash	18%	18%
Sodium silicate	4%	4%
Sodium sulfate	5%	5%
Hydroxyethanediphosphonic acid (complexing agent)	0.5%	0.5%
Cellulase	1.5%	-----
Protease	-----	1.5%
Carboxymethylcellulose	1%	1%
Sodium perborate monohydrate	15%	15%
TAED	5%	5%
Soap	2%	2%
Fluorescent whitener or mixture of fluorescent whitener used	X%	X%
In each of the above detergents a sufficient amount of water is used to give 100%.		

Table 4b (Washing powders used)

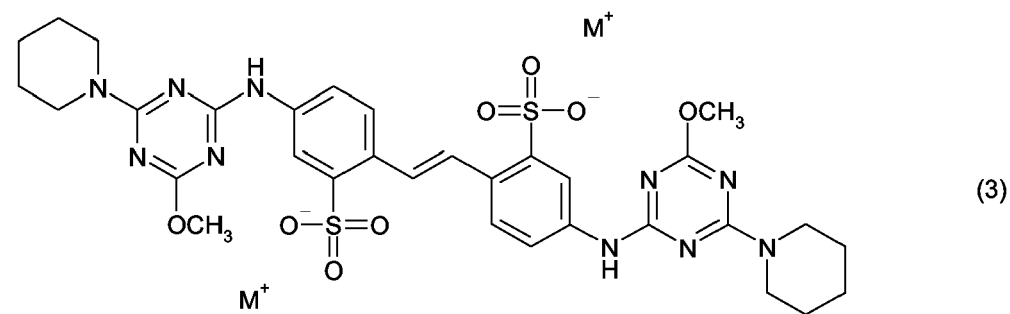
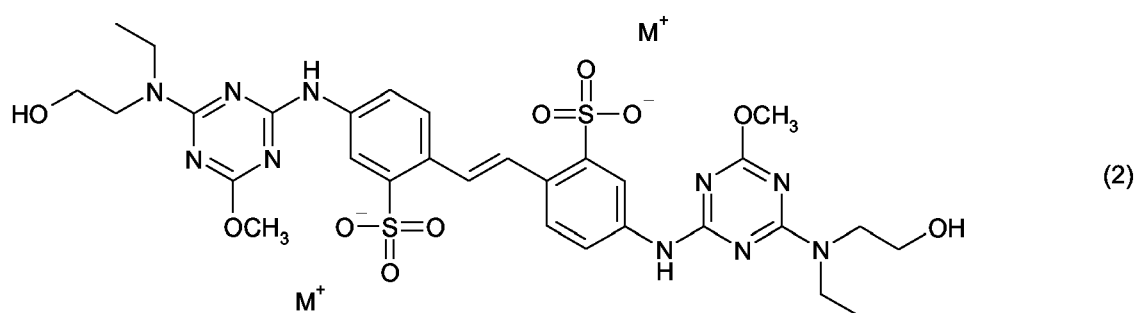
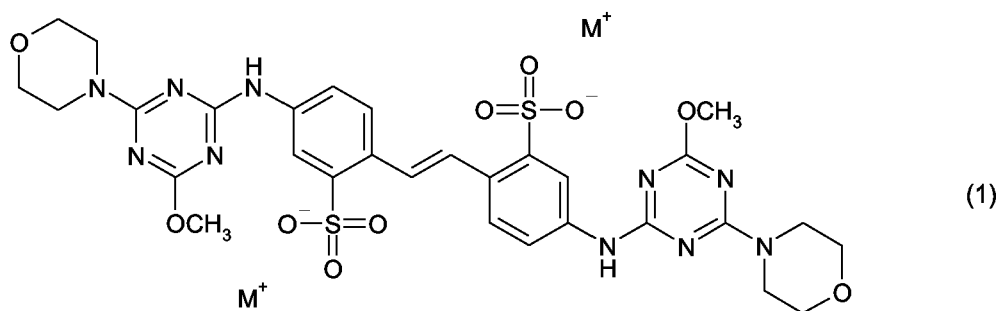
	Amount of fluorescent whitener or mixture of fluorescent whitener used	Washing powder
Compound of Prep. Ex. 2	0.4%	C
Mixture of compound of Prep. Ex. 1 and compound of formula (8) [9:1 weight ratio]	0.3%	D
Mixture of compound of Prep. Ex. 4 and compound of formula (8) [1:5 weight ratio]	0.2%	D

[0065] As to the constitution of compounds of formulae (8) see Application Example 1.

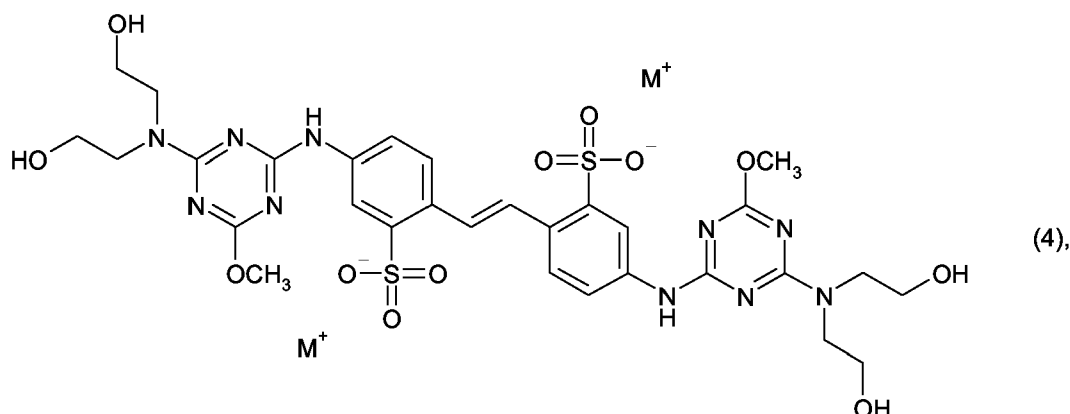
[0066] The cotton fabrics washed with the detergents given in Table 4b according to the general procedure show good whiteness properties.

Claims

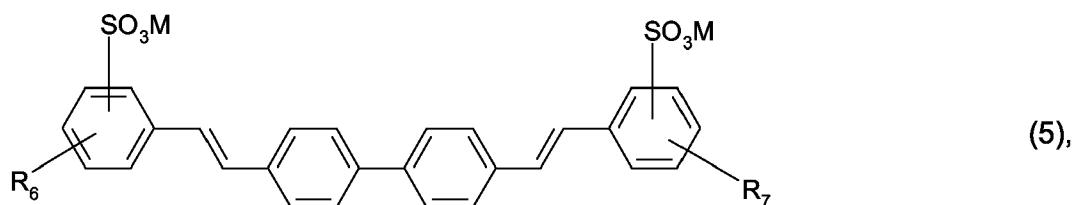
1. A detergent composition comprising at least one compound of formula



or



wherein M is hydrogen or cation
together with at least one compound of formula

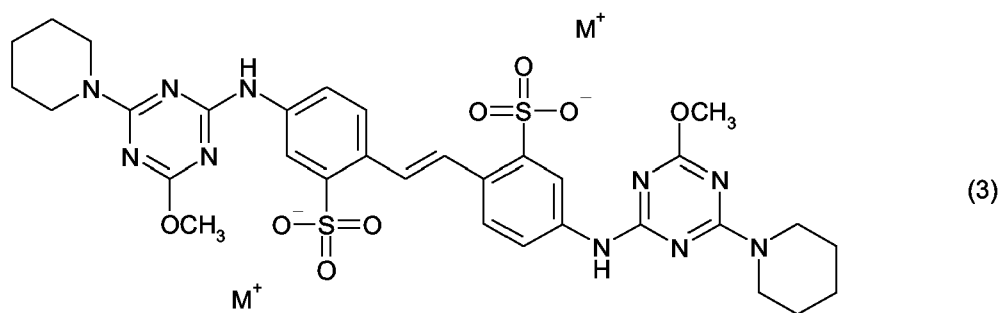
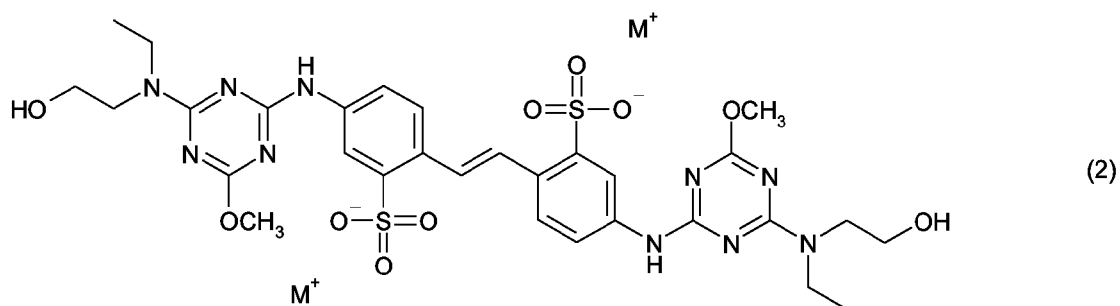
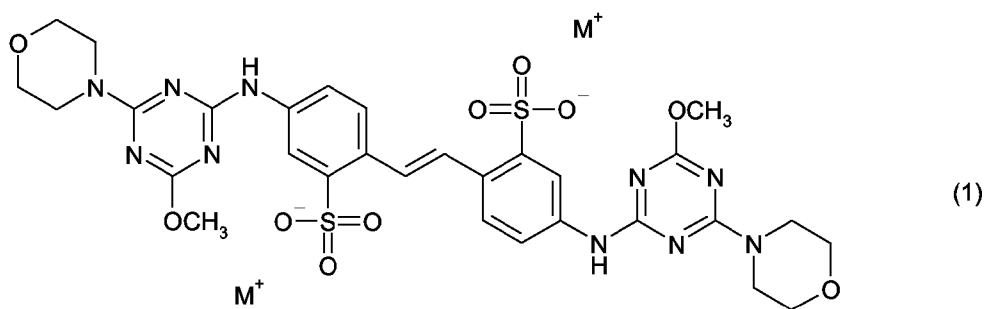


wherein

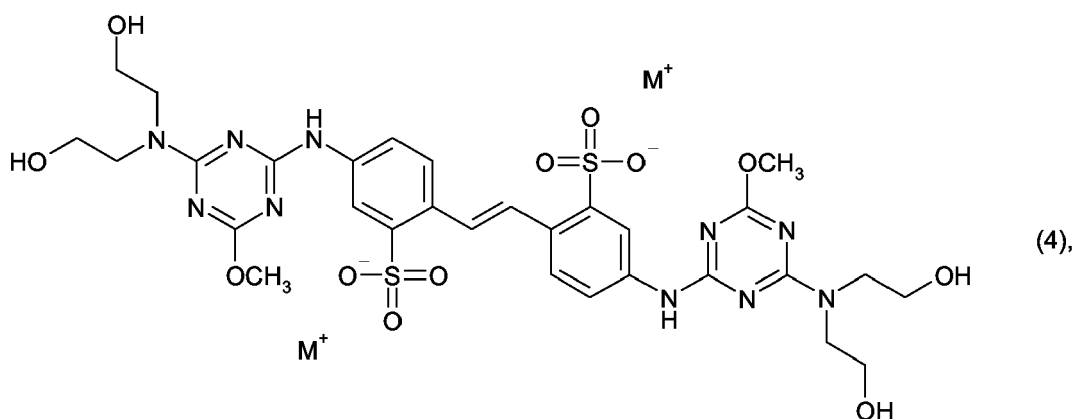
R_6 and R_7 , independently of each other, are hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_1 - C_8 alkoxy or halogen, and M is as defined above under formulae (1) to (4).

- 35
2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein
 R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen and each of the sulfo groups indicated in formula (5) are bonded in ortho position.
- 40
3. A process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
M is hydrogen, an alkaline- or alkaline earth-metal, or ammonium, preferably sodium.
- 45
4. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, comprising
- i) 1-70% of an anionic surfactant and/or a nonionic surfactant;
 - ii) 0-75% of a builder;
 - iii) 0-30% of a peroxide;
 - iv) 0-10% of a peroxide activator; and
 - v) 0.001-5% of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4), and (5).
- 50
5. A composition according to claim 4, comprising
- i) 5-70% of an anionic surfactant and/or a nonionic surfactant;
 - ii) 5-70% of a builder;
 - iii) 0.5-30% of a peroxide;
 - iv) 0.5-10% of a peroxide activator and/or 0.1-2% of a bleaching catalyst; and
 - v) 0.01-5% of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4), and (5).
- 55
6. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 5 in which the detergent composition comprises at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of cellulase, protease, amylase and lipase, preferably protease.

7. A detergent composition comprising
at least one compound of formula



or



wherein M is hydrogen or cation,

and wherein the detergent contains at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of cellulase, protease, amylase and lipase.

8. A composition according to claim 7, wherein M is hydrogen, an alkaline- or alkaline earth-metal, or ammonium, preferably sodium.

9. A composition according to claims 7 or 8, wherein the composition comprises a peroxide, a peroxide activator and/or a bleaching catalyst.

10. A composition according to any of claims 7 to 9, comprising

i) 1-70% of an anionic surfactant and/or a nonionic surfactant;

ii) 0-75% of a builder;

iii) 0-30% of a peroxide;

iv) 0-10% of a peroxide activator;

v) 0.001-5% of a compound of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4); and

vi) 0.05-5% of at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of cellulase, protease, amylase and lipase.

11. A composition according to any of claims 7 to 10, comprising

i) 5-70% of an anionic surfactant and/or a nonionic surfactant;

ii) 5-70% of a builder;

iii) 0.5-30% of a peroxide;

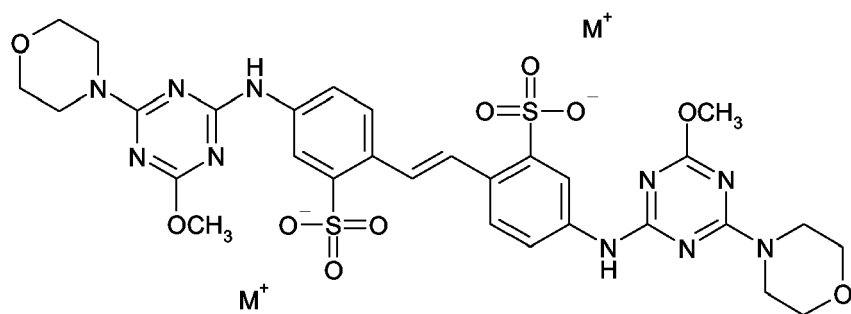
iv) 0.5-10% of a peroxide activator and/or 0.1-2% of a bleaching catalyst;

v) 0.01-5% of a compound of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4); and

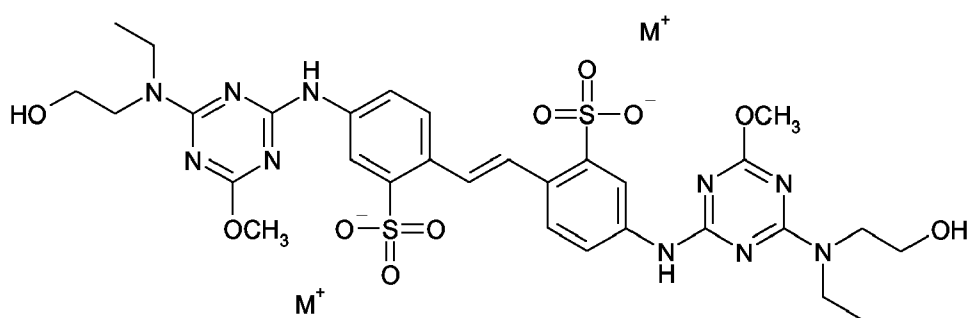
vi) 0.05-5% of at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of cellulase, protease, amylase and lipase.

12. A composition according to any of claims 7 to 11, wherein the enzyme is a protease enzyme.

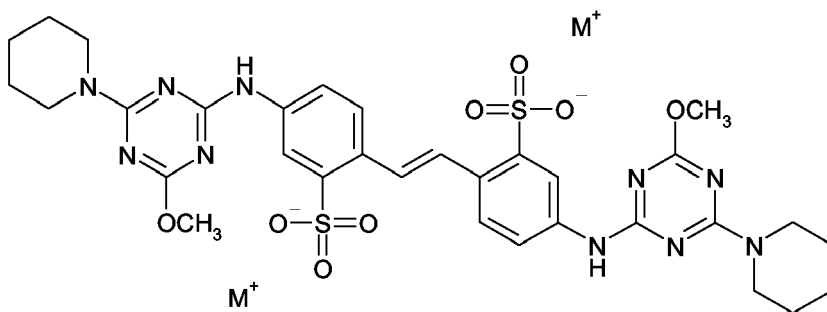
13. A process for the domestic washing treatment of a textile fibre material wherein the textile fibre material is contacted with an aqueous solution of a detergent comprising a compound of formula



(1)

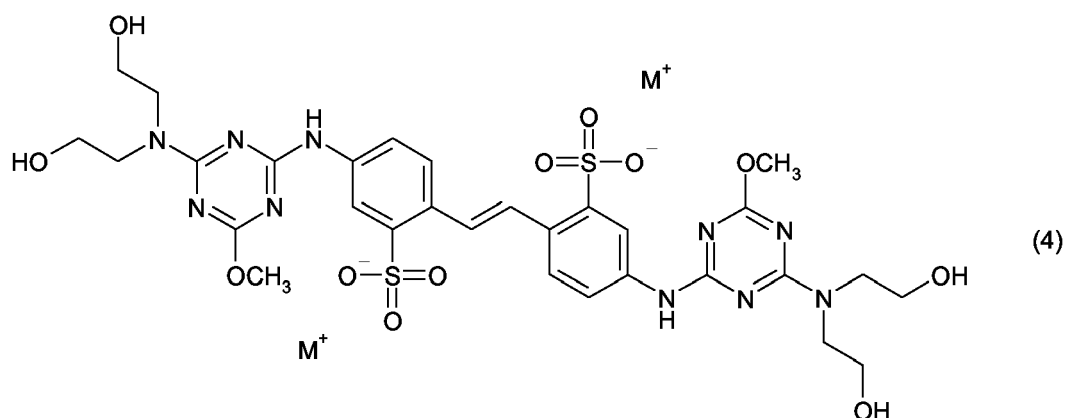


(2)



(3)

or



wherein

M is hydrogen or a cation,

and wherein the detergent contains at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of cellulase, protease, amylase and lipase,

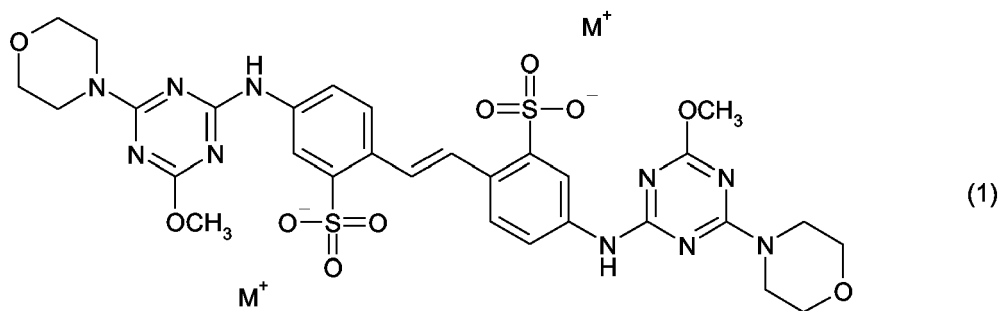
and wherein the temperature of the solution is between 5°C and 40°C, preferably between 5°C and 30°C, throughout the process.

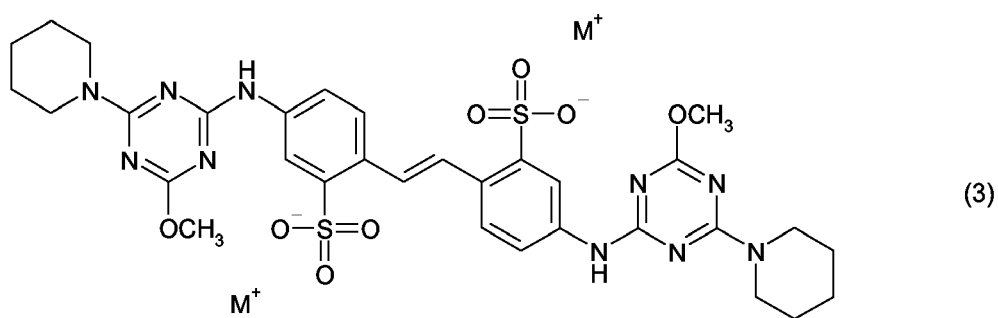
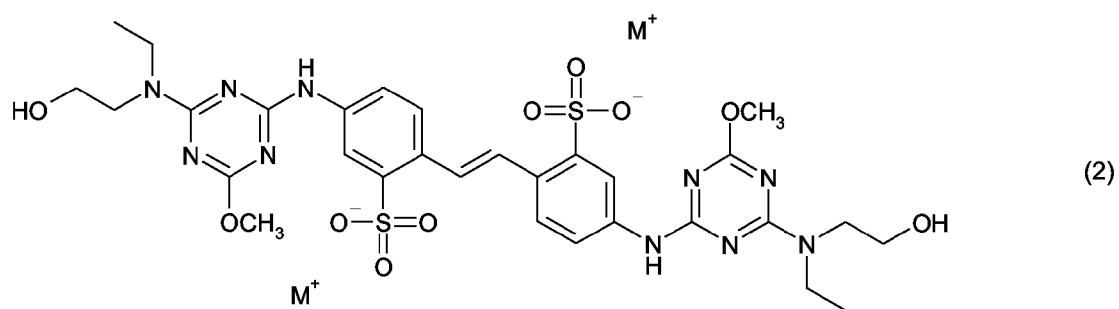
14. A process according to claim 13, wherein

M is hydrogen, an alkaline- or alkaline earth-metal, or ammonium, preferably sodium.

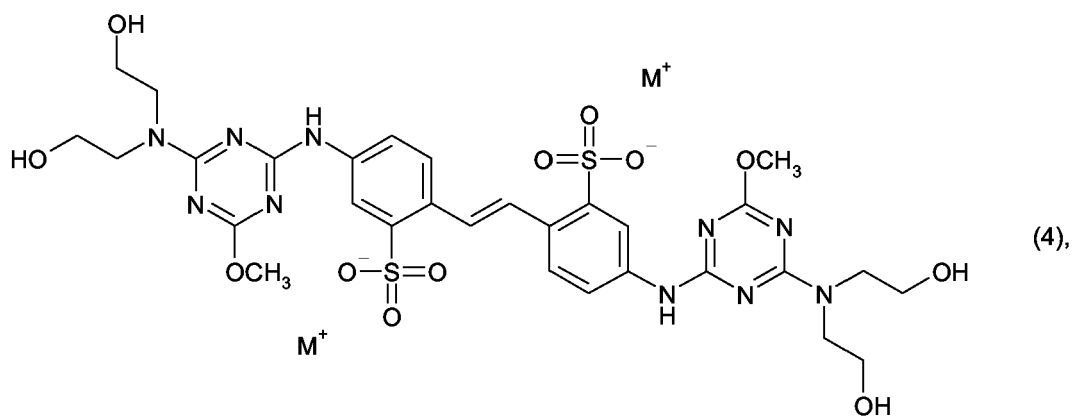
15. A process according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the textile fibre materials are treated with 0.05 to 3.0% by weight, based on the weight of the textile fibre material, of the compound of formula (1), (2), (3) or (4).

16. A mixture of compounds comprising at least one compound of formula

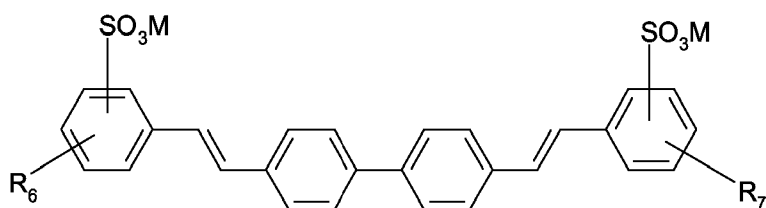




30 or



50 wherein M is hydrogen or cation,
together with at least one compound of formula



(5),

wherein

R_6 and R_7 , independently of each other, are hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_1 - C_8 alkoxy or halogen, and M is as defined above under formulae (1) to (4).

- 17.** A mixture of compounds according to claim 16, wherein R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen and each of the sulfo groups indicated in formula (5) are bonded in ortho position.
- 18.** A mixture of compounds according to claim 16 or 17, wherein M is hydrogen, an alkaline- or alkaline earth-metal, or ammonium, preferably sodium.
- 19.** A process for the fluorescent whitening of textile materials comprising contacting the textile materials with a mixture of compounds of formulae (1), (2), (3) or (4), and (5) as defined in claim 1.
- 20.** A process according to claim 19 in which the textile materials are polyamides, wool or cotton.

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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