Title: ELECTROSYNTHESIS OF ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

Abstract: Disclosed is a process for the electrochemical transformation of a compound to form a product, the process comprising (i) effecting the transformation in the presence of an electrolyte comprising at least one room temperature ionic liquid, wherein the ionic liquid is air-stable and moisture-stable, (ii) recovering the product, and optionally (iii) recovering the ionic liquid. The process can be used to effect the electrochemical transformation of a wide range of organic compounds.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C25B3/00 C25B3/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C25B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Documentation consulted during the international search (name of database and other practical search terms used)

EPO-Internal, CHEM ABS Data, INSPEC, WPI Data, PAJ, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Extended searches are listed in annex.

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 January 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

11/02/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Hilversum
Tel: (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx: 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3036

Authorized officer

Hammerstein, G
<table>
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<td>A</td>
<td>WO 99 41752 A (BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS PLC ; PITNER WILLIAM ROBERT (GB); ROONEY DAVI) 19 August 1999 (1999-08-19) page 9, line 25-28 page 10, line 14 - page 11, line 2 page 12, line 6 - page 13, line 1; example 3</td>
<td>1-39</td>
</tr>
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</table>
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box I  Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. □ Claims Nos.:
   because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. [X] Claims Nos.: 40, 1-39(in part)
   because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
   see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. □ Claims Nos.:
   because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II  Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. □ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. □ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. □ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. □ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

□ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

□ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.
Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 40, 1-39 (in part)

Present claims 1-40 relate to an extremely large number of possible processes (claims 1-39) and uses (claim 40). Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a very small proportion of these processes and uses claimed. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the only process which is disclosed in the application by way of examples and specific disclosure with regard to the type of electrochemical transformation, the components taking part in the reaction and the reaction medium. In extenso, what has been covered by the search is the electrochemical reduction of N-methylphthalimide as well as compounds including an imido group for being related homologous compounds in 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium hexafluorophosphate as well as in other 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium A(n-) solvents with A(n-) as defined in claim 24 of the application for being related homologous reaction media.

The applicant’s attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.
<table>
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