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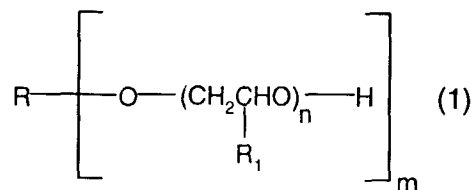
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(54) **Fluorescent whitening agent formulation**

(57) The present invention provides a liquid fluorescent whitening agent formulation which is a solution having a viscosity of 50 to 5000 mPas, preferably 100 to 3500 mPas, especially 100 to 1000 mPas and which comprises:

- a) 10-25%, preferably 15-20% by weight of an anionic fluorescent whitening agent, based on the total weight of the formulation;
- b) 15-35%, preferably 20-30% by weight of a polar solvent, based on the total weight of the formulation; and
- c) 45-75%, preferably 50-70% by weight, based on the total weight of the formulation, of a nonionic surfactant having the formula:



in which m is 1, 2, 3 or 4 and, when m is 1, R is a C₈-C₁₈-alkyl residue or a C₈-C₁₈-alkylcarboxy residue; when m is 2, R is a C₂-C₄alkylene glycol residue from which the two hydroxy groups have been removed; when m is 3, R is the residue of trimethylolpropane from which the three hydroxy groups have been removed; and when m is 4, R is the residue of pentaerythritol residue from which the four hydroxy groups have been removed; R₁ is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl; and n is a number ranging from 1 to 40.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	EP 0 577 557 A (CIBA GEIGY AG) 5 January 1994 * claims 1-40 *	1, 35, 37	C11D3/42 C11D1/72 C11D1/722 C11D3/20 D06L3/12
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A	EP 0 703 293 A (3V SIGMA SPA) 27 March 1996 * page 2, line 35 - page 3, line 21 * * examples 1, 9 *	1, 35, 37	
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P, A	EP 0 742 281 A (CIBA GEIGY AG) 13 November 1996 * claims 1-19 *	1, 35, 37	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) C11D D06L
A	FR 2 654 123 A (SIGMA PRODOTTI CHIMICI SRL) 10 May 1991 * example 1 * * claim 1 *	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 26 November 1998	Examiner Richards, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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