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(54) Titre : COMPOSITIONS DETERGENTES DE BLANCHISSERIE AVEC TEINTURE EFFICACE
 (54) Title: LAUNDRY DETERGENT COMPOSITIONS WITH EFFICIENT HUEING DYE

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

Laundry detergent compositions comprise (a) surfactant, and (b) a hueing dye, wherein the hueing dye exhibits a hueing efficiency of at least 10 and a wash removal value in the range of from about 30% to about 80%. The compositions of the present invention exhibit good fabric deposition to, for example, make yellow on white fabrics appear more white and which avoids undesirable dye build up.

ABSTRACT

Laundry detergent compositions comprise (a) surfactant, and (b) a hueing dye, wherein the hueing dye exhibits a hueing efficiency of at least 10 and a wash removal value in the range of from about 30% to about 80%. The compositions of the present invention exhibit good fabric deposition to, for example, make yellow on white fabrics appear more white and which avoids undesirable dye build up.

LAUNDRY DETERGENT COMPOSITIONS WITH EFFICIENT HUEING DYE**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention is directed to laundry detergent compositions, and, more particularly to laundry detergent compositions comprising a hueing dye which exhibits good fabric deposition to, for example, make yellow on white fabrics appear more white, and which avoids undesirable hueing dye build up which, for example, results in "bluing" of white fabrics.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Wear and laundering of fabric articles, and particularly white fabric articles, can result in a discoloration from the original fabric color. For example, white fabrics which are repeatedly laundered can exhibit a yellowing in color appearance which causes the fabric to look older and worn. To overcome the undesirable yellowing of white fabrics, and similar discoloration of other light colored fabrics, some laundry detergent products include a hueing or bluing dye which attaches to fabric during the laundry wash and/or rinse cycle.

However, after repeated laundering of fabric with detergent containing bluing dye, the bluing dye tends to accumulate on the fabric, giving the fabric a bluish tint. Such repeated laundering of white fabric articles tends to give the articles a blue, rather than white, appearance. To combat this accumulation of bluing dyes on fabric, chlorine treatments have been developed. While the chlorine treatment is effective to remove accumulated bluing dyes, the chlorine treatment is an additional and often inconvenient step in the laundry process. Additionally, chlorine treatment involves increased laundering costs and is harsh on fabrics and therefore undesirably contributes to increased fabric degradation. Accordingly, a need exists for improved laundry detergents which can counter the undesirable yellowing of white fabrics, and similar discoloration of other light colored fabrics.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide improved laundry detergent compositions. Further, it is an object of the present invention to provide laundry detergent compositions which can counter the undesirable yellowing of white fabrics, and similar discoloration of other light colored fabrics.

Generally, the invention is directed to a laundry detergent composition, comprising (a) surfactant, and (b) a hueing dye, wherein the hueing dye exhibits a hueing efficiency of at least 10 and a wash removal value in the range of from about 30% to about 80%. In a particular embodiment the hueing dye is a methine basic blue dye or a methine basic violet dye.

In another embodiment, the invention is directed to a laundry detergent composition, comprising, by weight (a) from about 5% to about 40% of a surfactant component comprising anionic surfactant and nonionic surfactant, and (b) from about 0.0001% to about 0.05% of a hueing dye, wherein the hueing dye exhibits a hueing efficiency of at least 10 and a wash removal value in the range of from about 30% to about 80%.

Hueing efficiency and the wash removal value are determined according to procedures described herein.

In further embodiments, the invention is directed to a method of laundering a fabric article, which method comprises washing the fabric article in a wash solution comprising a laundry detergent composition according to the invention. In additional embodiments, the invention is directed to methods of making such laundry detergent compositions.

The compositions and methods of the present invention are advantageous in providing improved hueing of fabric, including whitening of white fabric, while avoiding significant build up of bluing dyes on the fabric. Additional objects and advantages will be apparent in view of the detailed description of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The laundry detergent compositions of the present invention may be in solid or liquid form, including a gel form. In one specific embodiment, the compositions are liquid in form and comprise heavy duty liquid compositions. The compositions comprise surfactant and a hueing dye which exhibits a hueing efficiency of at least 10 and a wash removal value in the range of from about 30% to about 80%. Such dyes have been found to exhibit good tinting efficiency during a laundry wash cycle without exhibiting excessive undesirable build up after laundering. Thus, undesirable bluing after repeated washings with the detergent compositions of the invention is avoided and costly and harsh chlorine treatments are unnecessary.

The laundry detergent composition comprises a surfactant in an amount sufficient to provide desired cleaning properties. In one embodiment, the laundry detergent composition comprises, by weight, from about 5% to about 90% of the surfactant, and more specifically from about 5% to about 70% of the surfactant, and even more specifically from about 5% to about 40%. The surfactant may comprise anionic, nonionic, cationic, zwitterionic and/or amphoteric surfactants. In a more specific embodiment, the detergent composition comprises anionic surfactant, nonionic surfactant, or mixtures thereof.

Anionic Surfactants

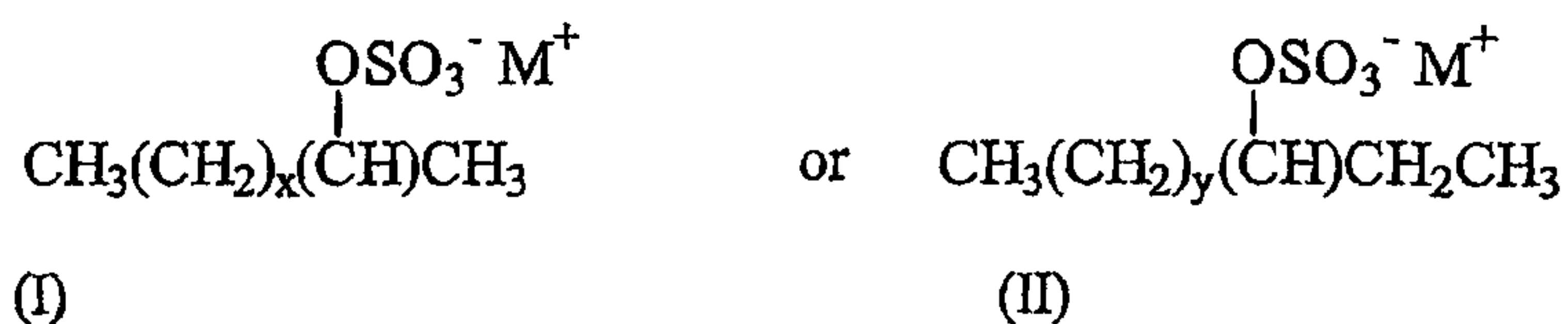
Suitable anionic surfactants useful herein can comprise any of the conventional anionic surfactant types typically used in liquid detergent products. These include the alkyl benzene sulfonic acids and their salts as well as alkoxyated or non-alkoxyated alkyl sulfate materials.

Exemplary anionic surfactants are the alkali metal salts of C₁₀₋₁₆ alkyl benzene sulfonic acids, preferably C₁₁₋₁₄ alkyl benzene sulfonic acids. Preferably the alkyl group is linear and such linear alkyl benzene sulfonates are known as "LAS". Alkyl benzene sulfonates, and particularly LAS, are well known in the art. Such surfactants and their preparation are described for example in U.S. Patents 2,220,099 and 2,477,383. Especially preferred are the sodium and potassium linear straight chain alkylbenzene sulfonates in which the average number of carbon atoms in the alkyl group is from about 11 to 14. Sodium C_{11-C14}, e.g., C₁₂, LAS is a specific example of such surfactants.

Another exemplary type of anionic surfactant comprises ethoxylated alkyl sulfate surfactants. Such materials, also known as alkyl ether sulfates or alkyl polyethoxylate sulfates, are those which correspond to the formula: R'-O-(C₂H₄O)_n-SO₃M wherein R' is a C_{8-C20} alkyl group, n is from about 1 to 20, and M is a salt-forming cation. In a specific embodiment, R' is C_{10-C18} alkyl, n is from about 1 to 15, and M is sodium, potassium, ammonium, alkylammonium, or alkanolammonium. In more specific embodiments, R' is a C_{12-C16}, n is from about 1 to 6 and M is sodium.

The alkyl ether sulfates will generally be used in the form of mixtures comprising varying R' chain lengths and varying degrees of ethoxylation. Frequently such mixtures will inevitably also contain some non-ethoxylated alkyl sulfate materials, i.e., surfactants of the above ethoxylated alkyl sulfate formula wherein n=0. Non-ethoxylated alkyl sulfates may also be added separately to the compositions of this invention and used as or in any anionic surfactant component which may be present. Specific examples of non-alkoxyated, e.g., non-ethoxylated, alkyl ether sulfate surfactants are those produced by the sulfation of higher C_{8-C20} fatty alcohols. Conventional primary alkyl sulfate surfactants have the general formula: ROSO₃⁻M⁺ wherein R is typically a linear C_{8-C20} hydrocarbyl group, which may be straight chain or branched chain, and M is a water-solubilizing cation. In specific embodiments, R is a C_{10-C15} alkyl, and M is alkali metal, more specifically R is C_{12-C14} and M is sodium.

Specific, nonlimiting examples of anionic surfactants useful herein include: a) C_{11-C18} alkyl benzene sulfonates (LAS); b) C_{10-C20} primary, branched-chain and random alkyl sulfates (AS); c) C_{10-C18} secondary (2,3) alkyl sulfates having formulae (I) and (II):



wherein M in formulae (I) and (II) is hydrogen or a cation which provides charge neutrality, and all M units, whether associated with a surfactant or adjunct ingredient, can either be a hydrogen atom or a cation depending upon the form isolated by the artisan or the relative pH of the system wherein the compound is used, with non-limiting examples of preferred cations including sodium, potassium, ammonium, and mixtures thereof, and x is an integer of at least about 7, preferably at least about 9, and y is an integer of at least 8, preferably at least about 9; d) C₁₀-C₁₈ alkyl alkoxy sulfates (AE_xS) wherein preferably x is from 1-30; e) C₁₀-C₁₈ alkyl alkoxy carboxylates preferably comprising 1-5 ethoxy units; f) mid-chain branched alkyl sulfates as discussed in US 6,020,303 and US 6,060,443; g) mid-chain branched alkyl alkoxy sulfates as discussed in US 6,008,181 and US 6,020,303; h) modified alkylbenzene sulfonate (MLAS) as discussed in WO 99/05243, WO 99/05242, WO 99/05244, WO 99/05082, WO 99/05084, WO 99/05241, WO 99/07656, WO 00/23549, and WO 00/23548.; i) methyl ester sulfonate (MES); and j) alpha-olefin sulfonate (AOS).

Nonionic Surfactants

Suitable nonionic surfactants useful herein can comprise any of the conventional nonionic surfactant types typically used in liquid detergent products. These include alkoxyated fatty alcohols and amine oxide surfactants. Preferred for use in the liquid detergent products herein are those nonionic surfactants which are normally liquid.

Suitable nonionic surfactants for use herein include the alcohol alkoxyate nonionic surfactants. Alcohol alkoxyates are materials which correspond to the general formula: R¹(C_mH_{2m}O)_nOH wherein R¹ is a C₈ - C₁₆ alkyl group, m is from 2 to 4, and n ranges from about 2 to 12. Preferably R¹ is an alkyl group, which may be primary or secondary, that contains from about 9 to 15 carbon atoms, more preferably from about 10 to 14 carbon atoms. In one embodiment, the alkoxyated fatty alcohols will also be ethoxyated materials that contain from about 2 to 12 ethylene oxide moieties per molecule, more preferably from about 3 to 10 ethylene oxide moieties per molecule.

The alkoxyated fatty alcohol materials useful in the liquid detergent compositions herein will frequently have a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) which ranges from about 3 to 17. More preferably, the HLB of this material will range from about 6 to 15, most preferably from about 8 to 15. Alkoxyated fatty alcohol nonionic surfactants have been marketed under the trade-marks Neodol and Dobanol by the Shell Chemical Company.

Another suitable type of nonionic surfactant useful herein comprises the amine oxide surfactants. Amine oxides are materials which are often referred to in the art as "semi-polar" nonionics. Amine oxides have the formula: $R(EO)_x(PO)_y(BO)_zN(O)(CH_2R')_2 \cdot qH_2O$. In this formula, R is a relatively long-chain hydrocarbyl moiety which can be saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, and can contain from 8 to 20, preferably from 10 to 16 carbon atoms, and is more preferably C₁₂-C₁₆ primary alkyl. R' is a short-chain moiety, preferably selected from hydrogen, methyl and -CH₂OH. When x+y+z is different from 0, EO is ethyleneoxy, PO is propyleneoxy and BO is butyleneoxy. Amine oxide surfactants are illustrated by C₁₂₋₁₄ alkyldimethyl amine oxide.

Non-limiting examples of nonionic surfactants include: a) C₁₂-C₁₈ alkyl ethoxylates, such as, NEODOL[®] nonionic surfactants from Shell; b) C₆-C₁₂ alkyl phenol alkoxyates wherein the alkoxyate units are a mixture of ethyleneoxy and propyleneoxy units; c) C₁₂-C₁₈ alcohol and C₆-C₁₂ alkyl phenol condensates with ethylene oxide/propylene oxide block polymers such as Pluronic[®] from BASF; d) C₁₄-C₂₂ mid-chain branched alcohols, BA, as discussed in US 6,150,322; e) C₁₄-C₂₂ mid-chain branched alkyl alkoxyates, BAE_x, wherein x 1-30, as discussed in US 6,153,577, US 6,020,303 and US 6,093,856; f) Alkylpolysaccharides as discussed in U.S. 4,565,647 Llenado, issued January 26, 1986; specifically alkylpolyglycosides as discussed in US 4,483,780 and US 4,483,779; g) Polyhydroxy fatty acid amides as discussed in US 5,332,528, WO 92/06162, WO 93/19146, WO 93/19038, and WO 94/09099; and h) ether capped poly(oxyalkylated) alcohol surfactants as discussed in US 6,482,994 and WO 01/42408.

Anionic/Nonionic Combinations

In the laundry detergent compositions herein, the deterative surfactant component may comprise combinations of anionic and nonionic surfactant materials. When this is the case, the weight ratio of anionic to nonionic will typically range from 10:90 to 90:10, more typically from 30:70 to 70:30.

Cationic Surfactants

Cationic surfactants are well known in the art and non-limiting examples of these include quaternary ammonium surfactants, which can have up to 26 carbon atoms. Additional examples include a) alkoxyate quaternary ammonium (AQA) surfactants as discussed in US 6,136,769; b) dimethyl hydroxyethyl quaternary ammonium as discussed in US 6,004,922; c) polyamine cationic surfactants as discussed in WO 98/35002, WO 98/35003, WO 98/35004, WO 98/35005, and WO 98/35006; d) cationic ester surfactants as discussed in US Patents Nos. 4,228,042, 4,239,660 4,260,529 and US 6,022,844; and e) amino surfactants as discussed in US 6,221,825 and WO 00/47708, specifically amido propyldimethyl amine (APA).

Zwitterionic Surfactants

Non-limiting examples of zwitterionic surfactants include: derivatives of secondary and tertiary amines, derivatives of heterocyclic secondary and tertiary amines, or derivatives of quaternary ammonium, quaternary phosphonium or tertiary sulfonium compounds. See U.S. Patent No. 3,929,678 to Laughlin et al., issued December 30, 1975 at column 19, line 38 through column 22, line 48, for examples of zwitterionic surfactants; betaine, including alkyl dimethyl betaine and cocodimethyl amidopropyl betaine, C₈ to C₁₈ (preferably C₁₂ to C₁₈) amine oxides and sulfo and hydroxy betaines, such as N-alkyl-N,N-dimethylamino-1-propane sulfonate where the alkyl group can be C₈ to C₁₈, preferably C₁₀ to C₁₄.

Ampholytic Surfactants

Non-limiting examples of ampholytic surfactants include: aliphatic derivatives of secondary or tertiary amines, or aliphatic derivatives of heterocyclic secondary and tertiary amines in which the aliphatic radical can be straight- or branched-chain. One of the aliphatic substituents contains at least about 8 carbon atoms, typically from about 8 to about 18 carbon atoms, and at least one contains an anionic water-solubilizing group, e.g. carboxy, sulfonate, sulfate. See U.S. Patent No. 3,929,678 to Laughlin et al., issued December 30, 1975 at column 19, lines 18-35, for examples of ampholytic surfactants.

Hueing Dye

The hueing dye included in the present detergent compositions exhibits a hueing efficiency of at least 10 and a wash removal value in the range of from about 30% to about 80%. Such dyes have been found to exhibit good tinting efficiency during a laundry wash cycle without exhibiting excessive undesirable build up during laundering. The hueing efficiency of a dye is measured by comparing a fabric sample washed in a solution containing no dye with a fabric sample washed in a solution containing the dye, and indicates if a hueing dye is effective for providing the desired tinting, for example, whitening. Specifically, a 25 cm x 25 cm fabric piece, an example of which may comprise 16 oz cotton interlock knit fabric (270 g/square meter, brightened with Uvitex™ BNB fluorescent whitening agent, obtained from Test Fabrics, P.O. Box 26, Weston, PA, 18643), is employed. Other fabric samples may used, although it is preferred that white cotton material is employed. The samples are washed in one liter of distilled water containing 1.55 g of AATCC standard heavy duty liquid (HDL) test detergent as set forth in Table 1 for 45 minutes at room temperature and rinsed. Respective samples are prepared using a detergent containing no dye (control) and using a detergent containing a 30 ppm wash

concentration of a dye to be tested. After rinsing and drying each fabric sample, the hueing efficiency, DE^*_{eff} , in the wash is assessed by the following equation:

$$DE^*_{eff} = ((L^*_c - L^*_s)^2 + (a^*_c - a^*_s)^2 + (b^*_c - b^*_s)^2)^{1/2}$$

wherein the subscripts c and s respectively refer to the L^* , a^* , and b^* values measured for the control, i.e., the fabric sample washed in detergent with no dye, and the fabric sample washed in detergent containing the dye to be screened. The L^* , a^* , and b^* value measurements are carried out using a Hunter Colorquest™ reflectance spectrophotometer with D65 illumination, 10° observer and UV filter excluded. Hueing dyes suitable for use in the present detergent compositions exhibit a hueing efficiency of at least 10. In more specific embodiments, the hueing dye exhibits a hueing efficiency of at least 15.

The wash removal value is an indication of a hueing dye's resistance to build up on a fabric and therefore indicates that the hueing dye, although effective for tinting, will not cause undesirable bluing of fabric after repeated washings. The wash removal value is determined as follows: 15 cm x 5 cm sized pieces of the fabric samples resulting from the hueing efficiency test described above are washed in a Launderometer™ for 45 minutes at 49°C in 150 ml of a the HDL detergent solution set forth in Table 1, according to AATCC Test Method 61-2003, Test 2A. The detergent concentration is 1.55 g/ liter of the AATCC HDL formula in distilled water. After rinsing and air drying in the dark, the amount of residual coloration is assessed by measuring the DE^*_{res} , given by the following equation:

$$DE^*_{res} = ((L^*_c - L^*_s)^2 + (a^*_c - a^*_s)^2 + (b^*_c - b^*_s)^2)^{1/2}$$

wherein the subscripts c and s respectively refer to the L^* , a^* , and b^* values measured for the control, i.e., the fabric sample initially washed in detergent with no dye, and the fabric sample initially washed in detergent containing the dye to be screened. The wash removal value for the dye is then calculated according to the formula: % removal = 100 x (1 - DE^*_{res}/DE^*_{eff}). The hueing dyes suitable for use in the present detergent compositions exhibit a wash removal value in the range of from about 30% to about 80%. In a more specific embodiment, the hueing dye exhibits a wash removal value in the range of from about 35% to about 75%.

Table 1

Ingredient	Weight percent
C11.8 linear alkylbenzene sulfonic acid	12.00
Neodol 23-9	8.00
citric acid	1.20
C12-14 fatty acid	4.00

sodium hydroxide ¹	2.65
ethanolamine	0.13
borax	1.00
DTPA ²	0.30
1,2-propanediol	8.00
brightener 15	0.04
water	balance

¹ formula pH adjusted to 8.5

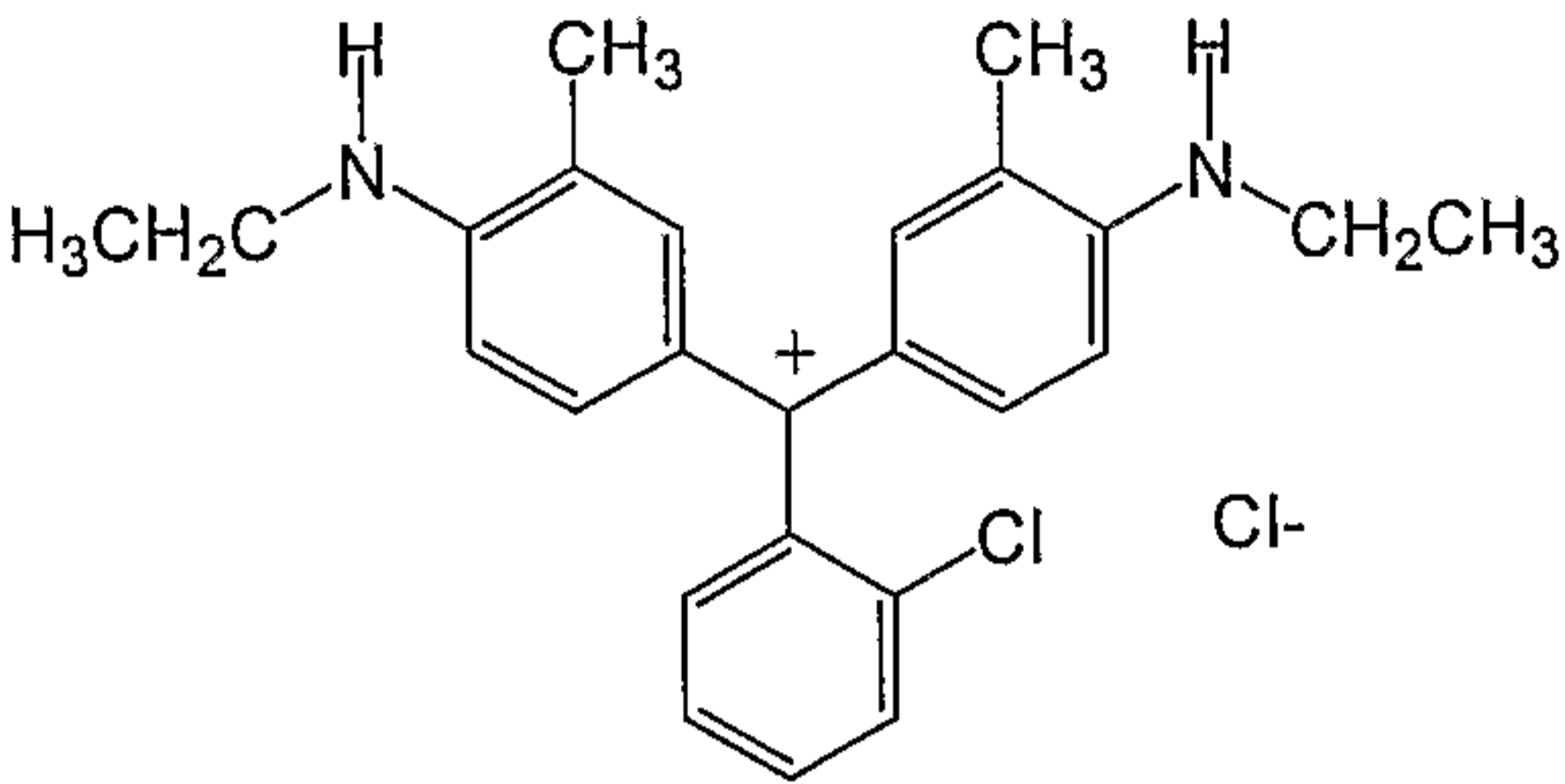
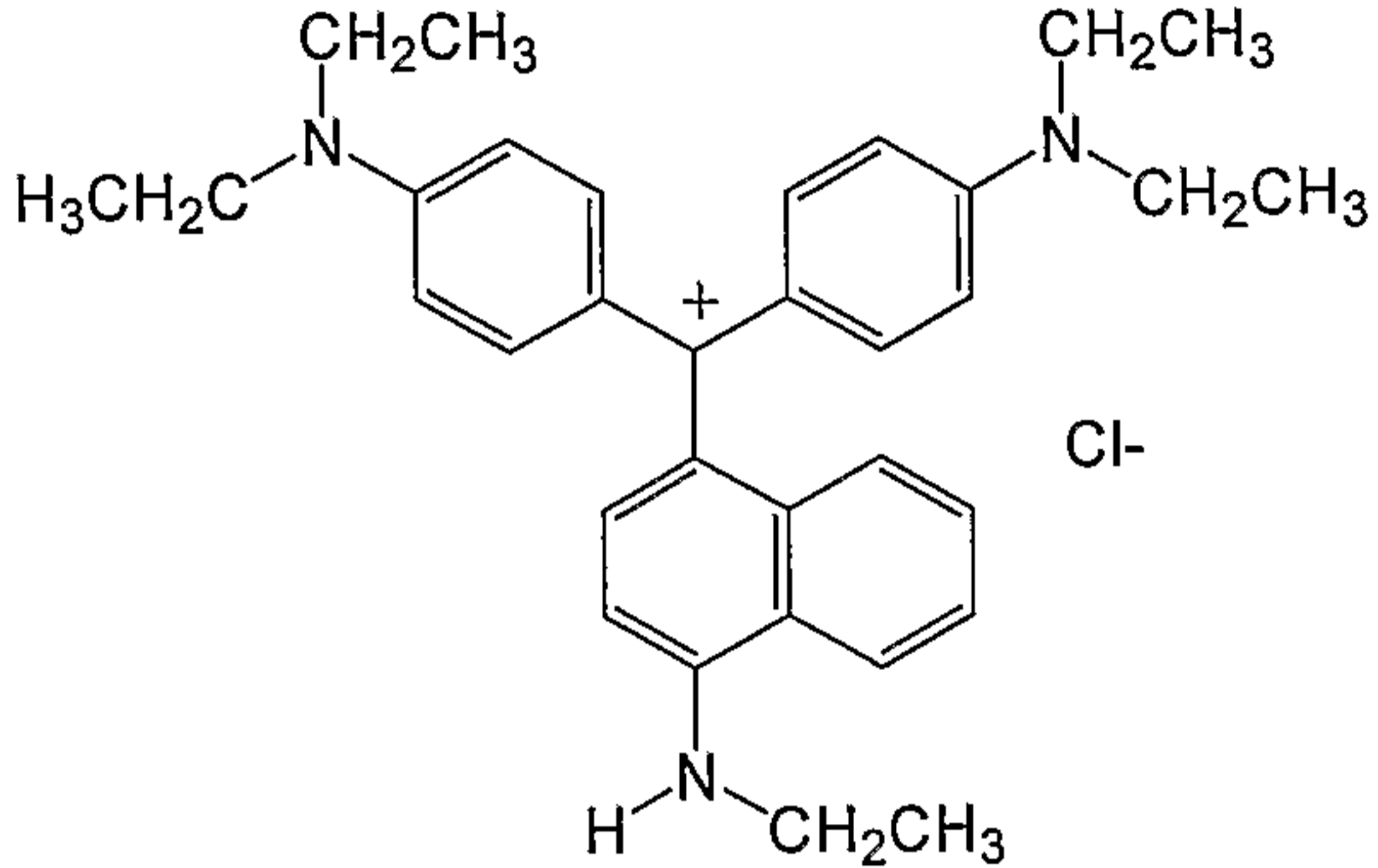
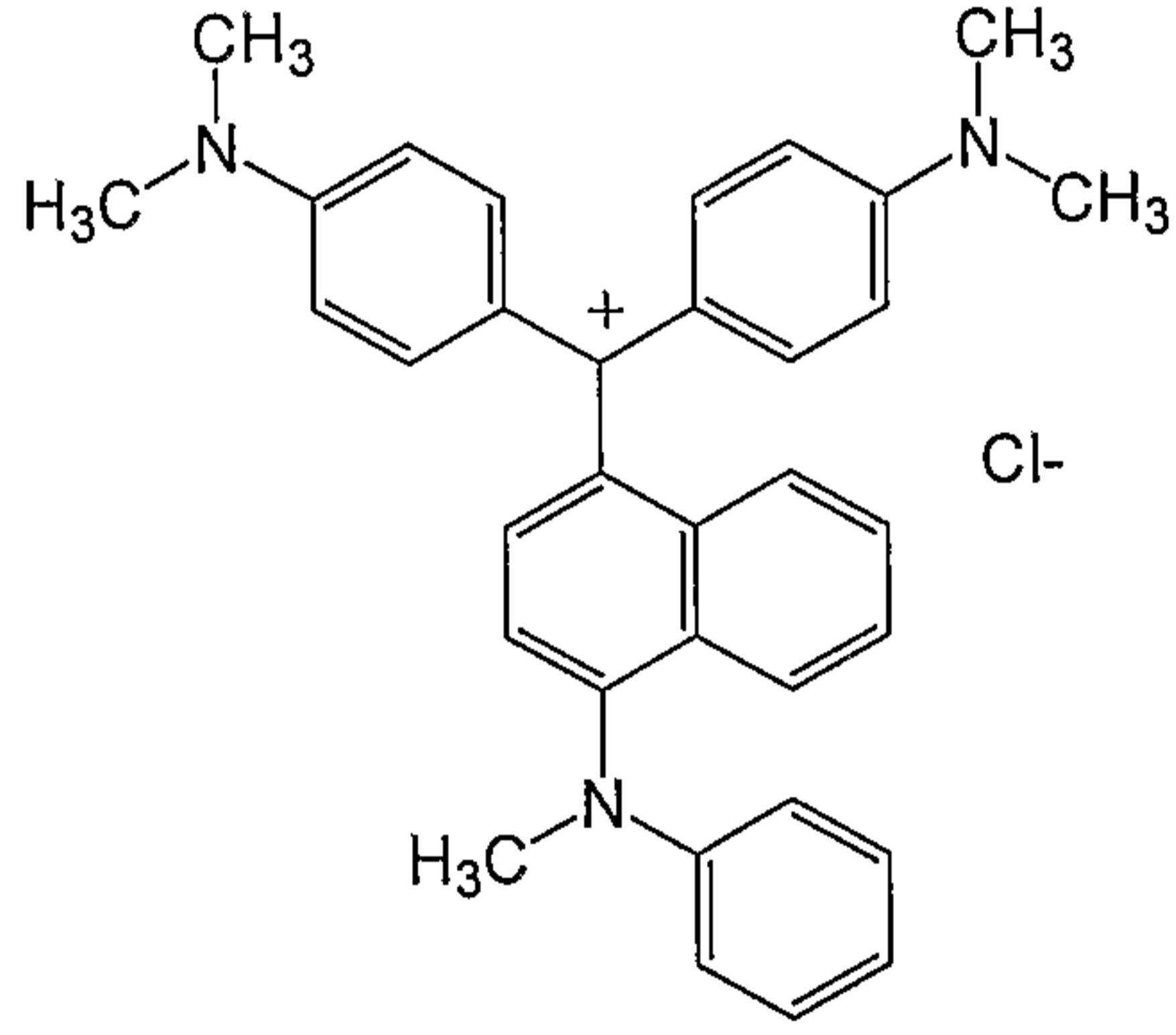
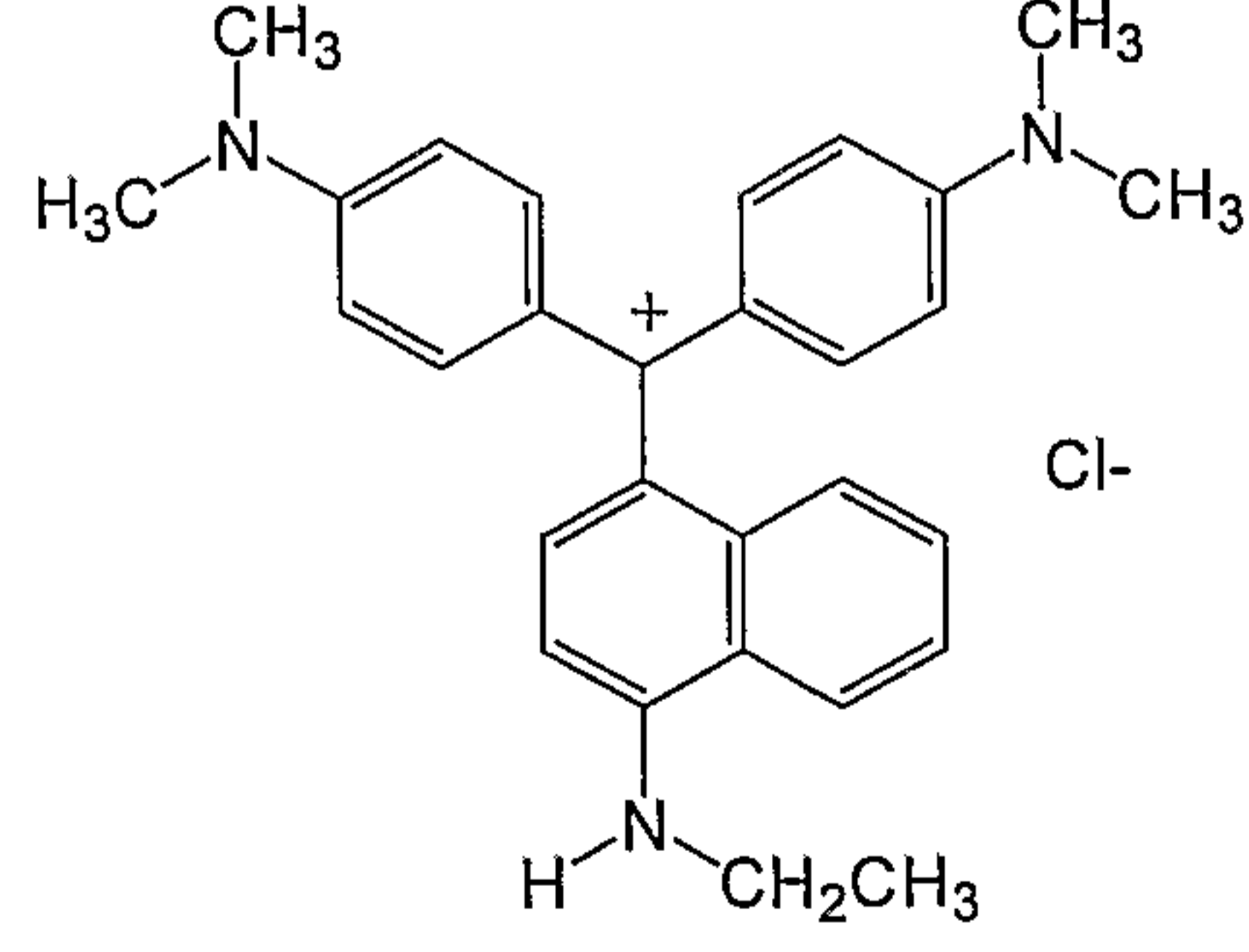
² diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid, pentasodium salt

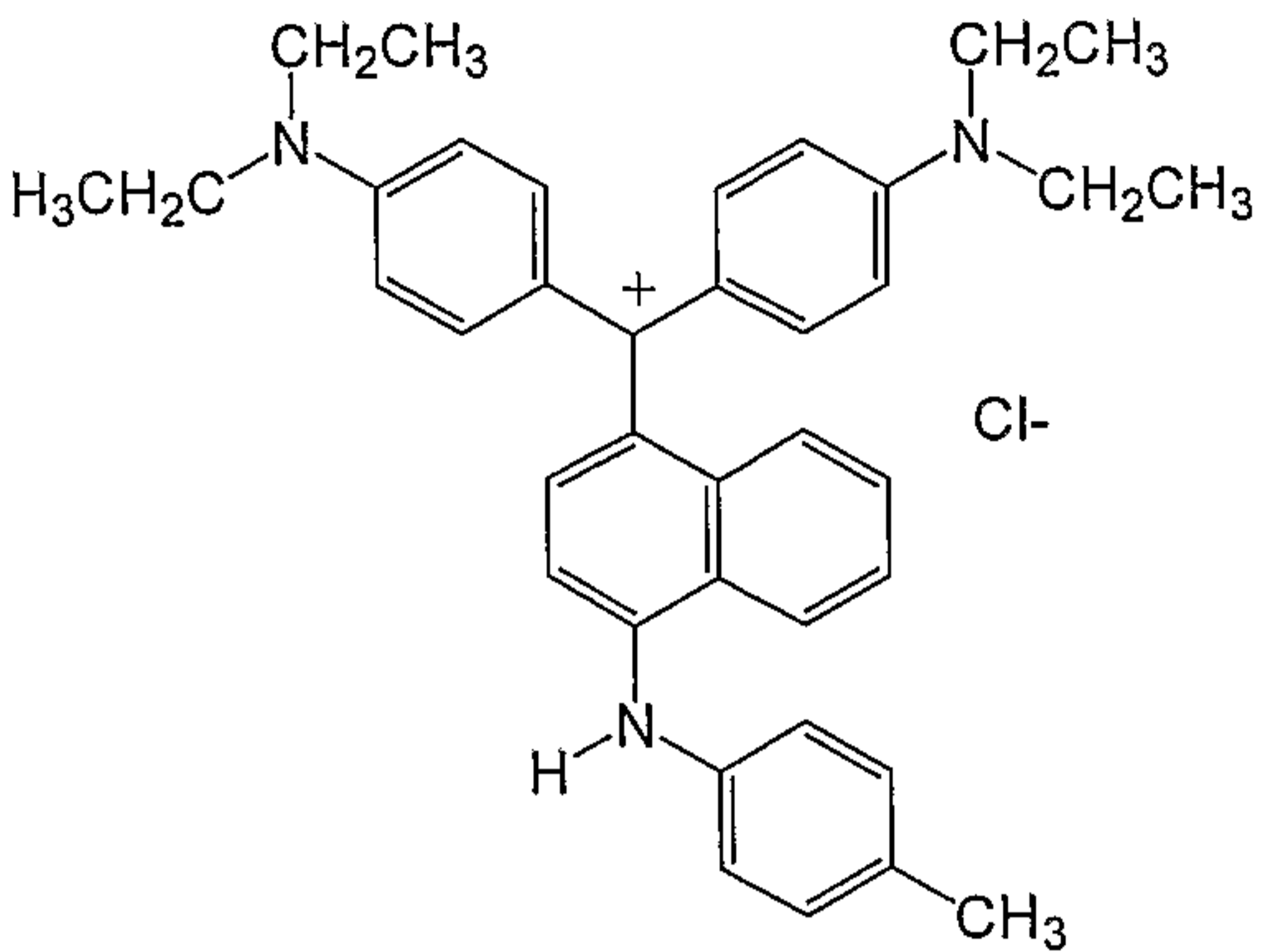
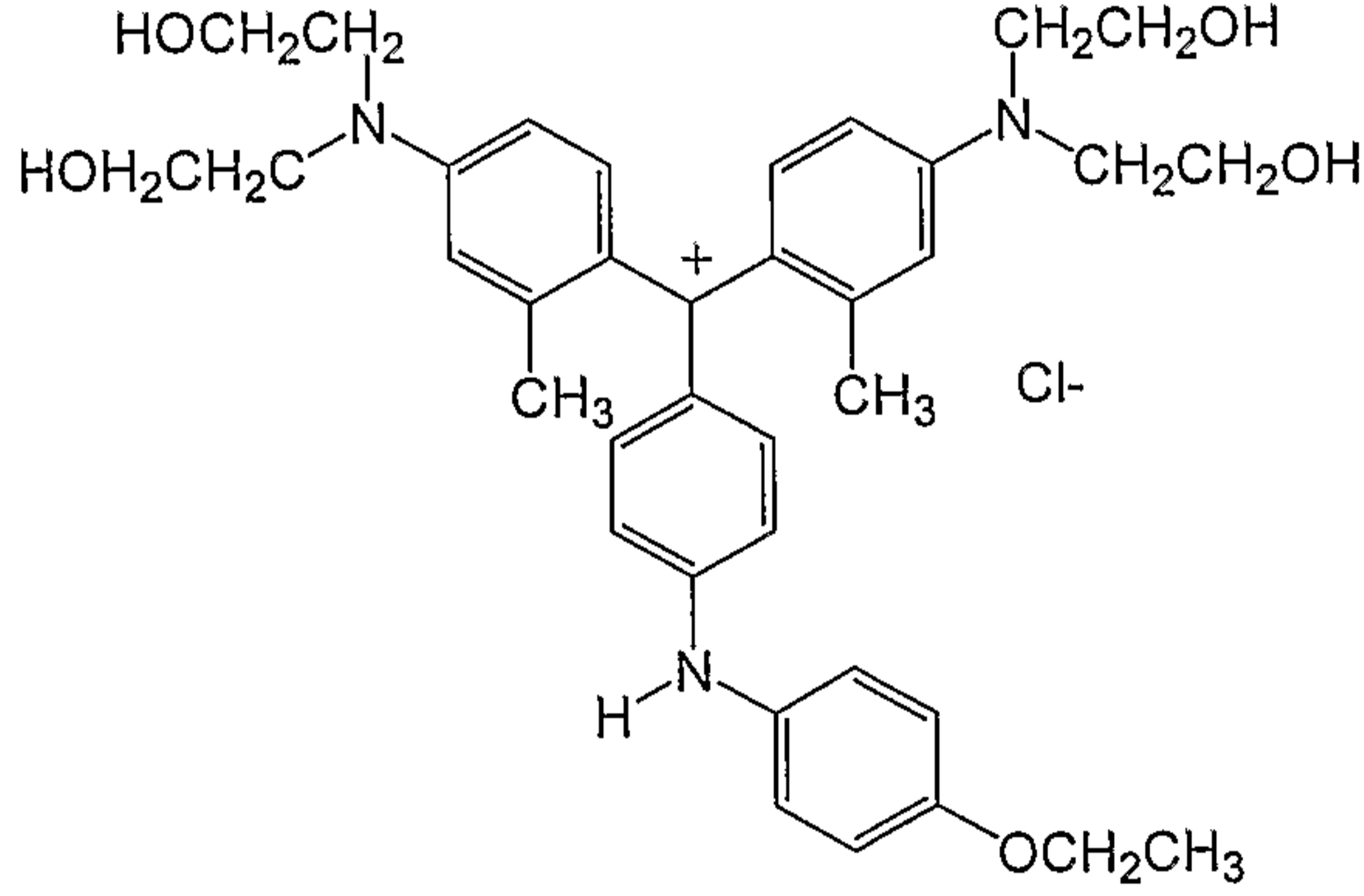
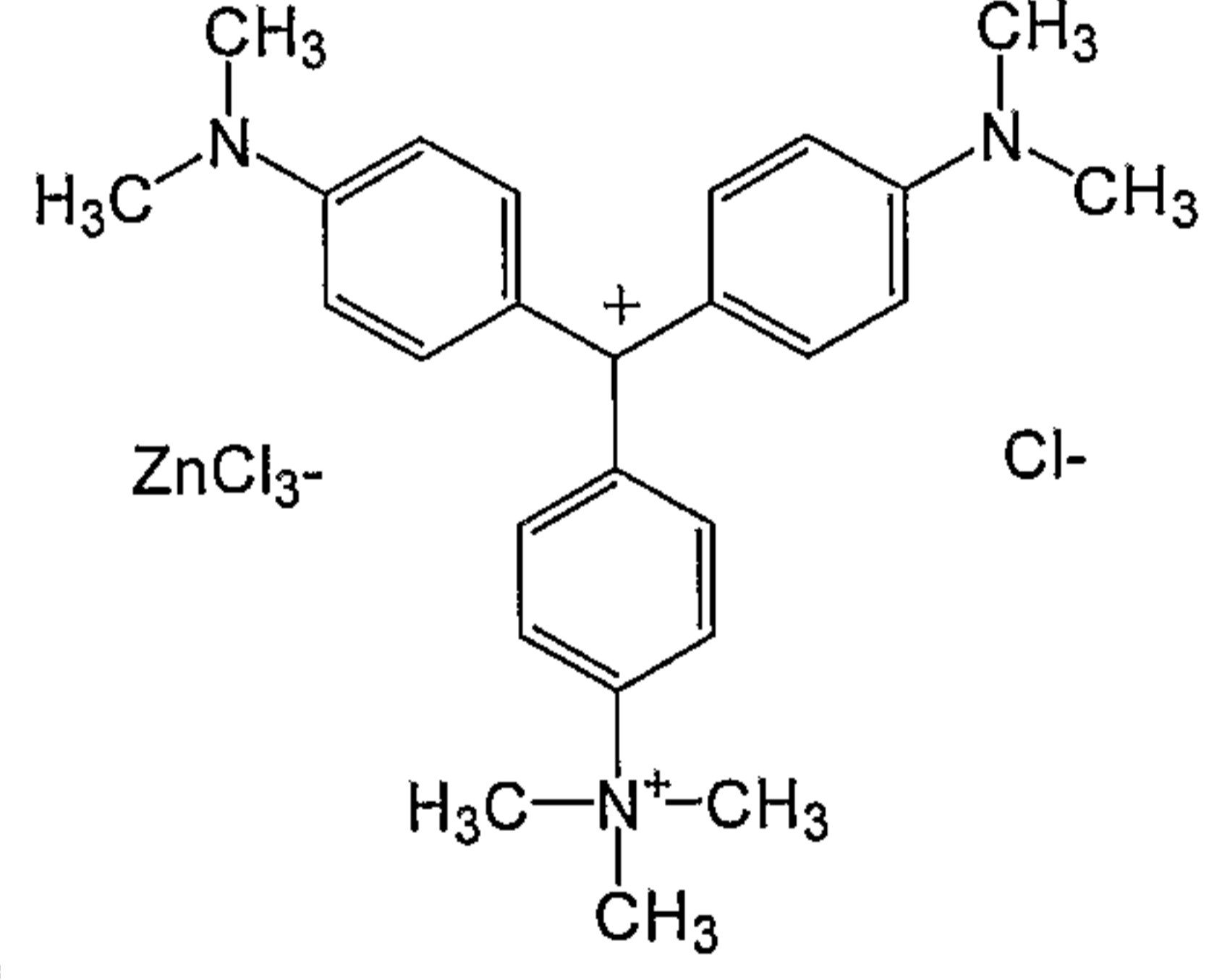
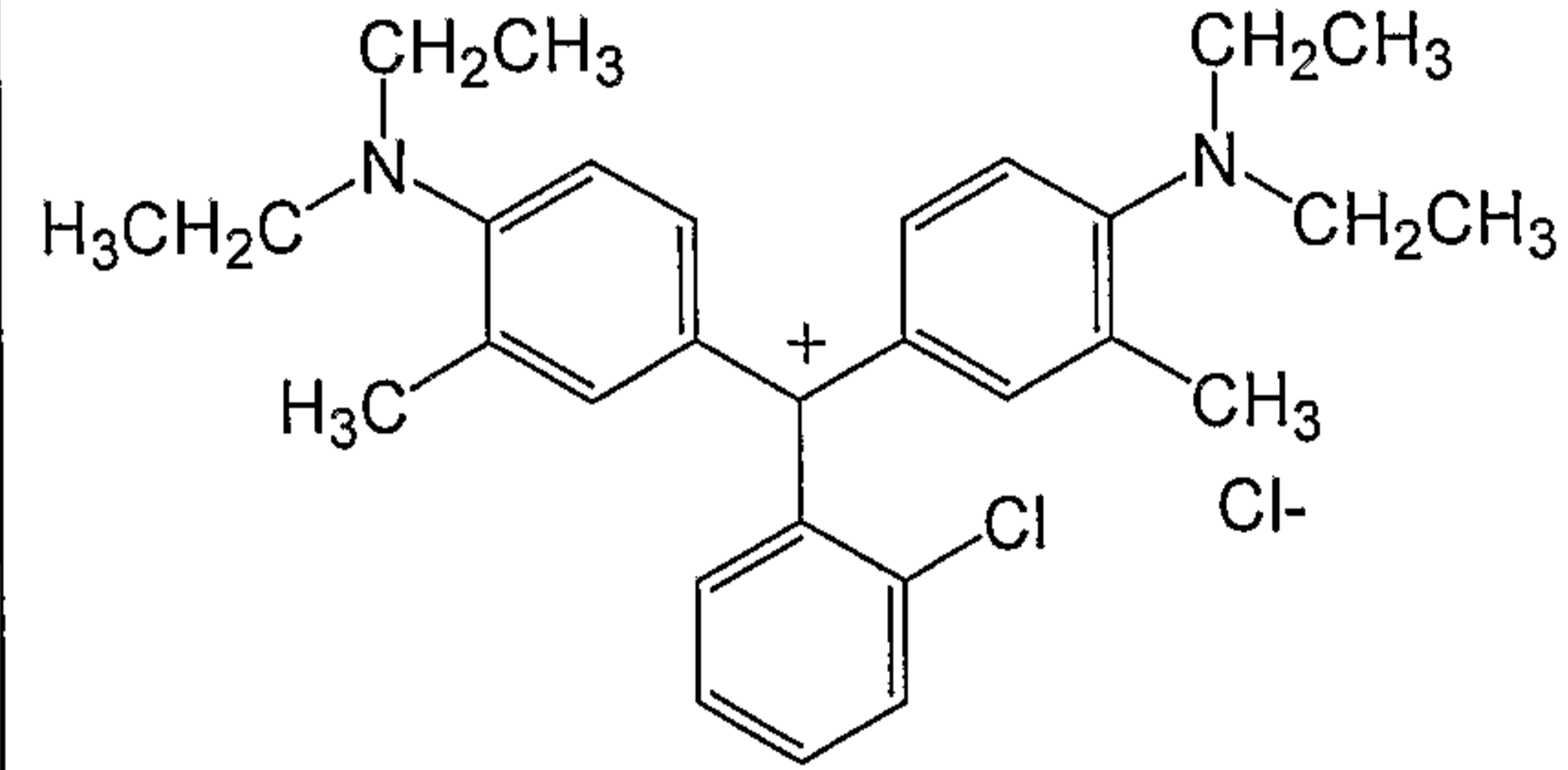
The hueing dye is included in the laundry detergent composition in an amount sufficient to provide a tinting effect to fabric washed in a solution containing the detergent. In one embodiment, the detergent composition comprises, by weight, from about 0.0001% to about 0.05%, more specifically from about 0.001% to about 0.01%, of the hueing dye.

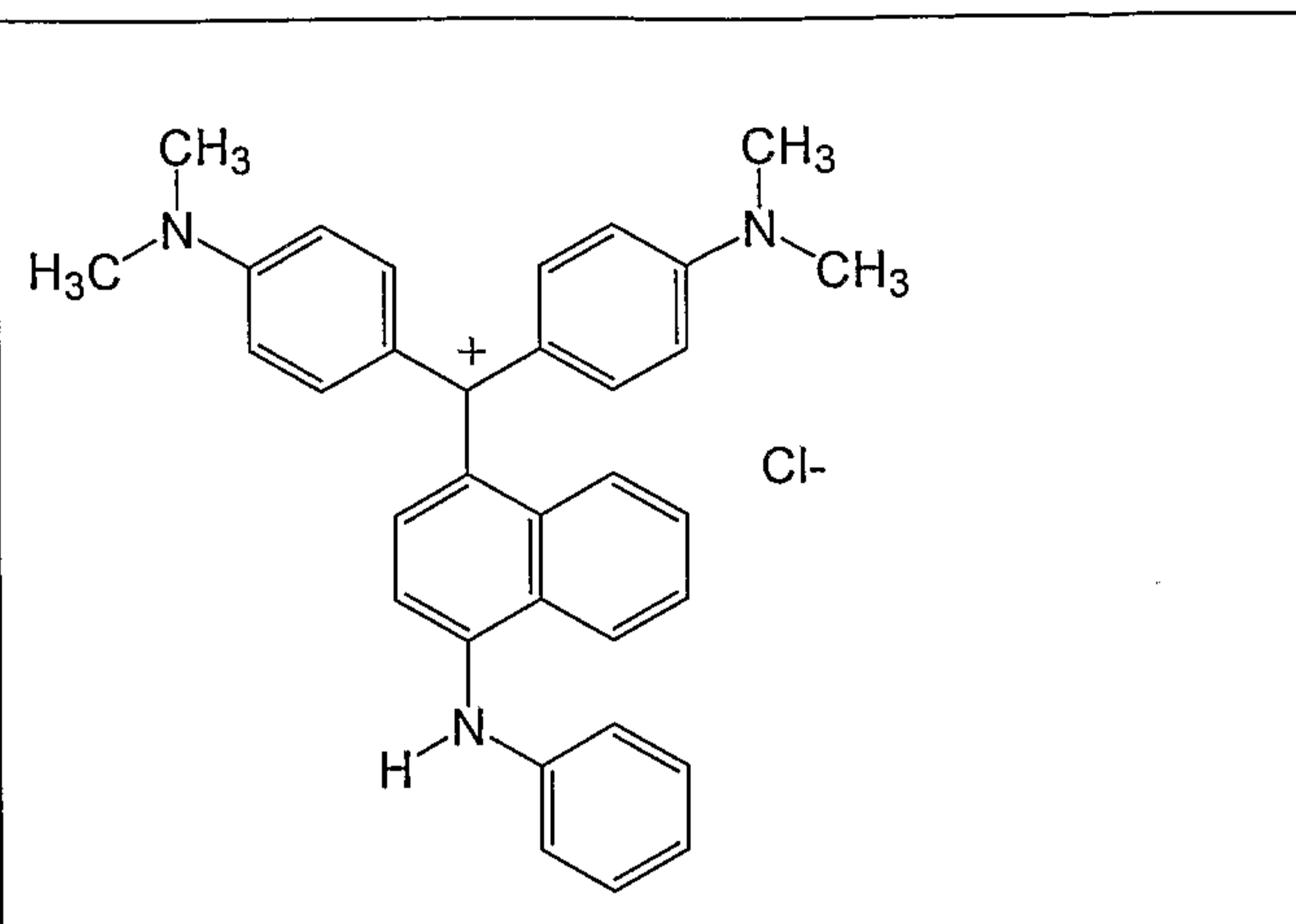
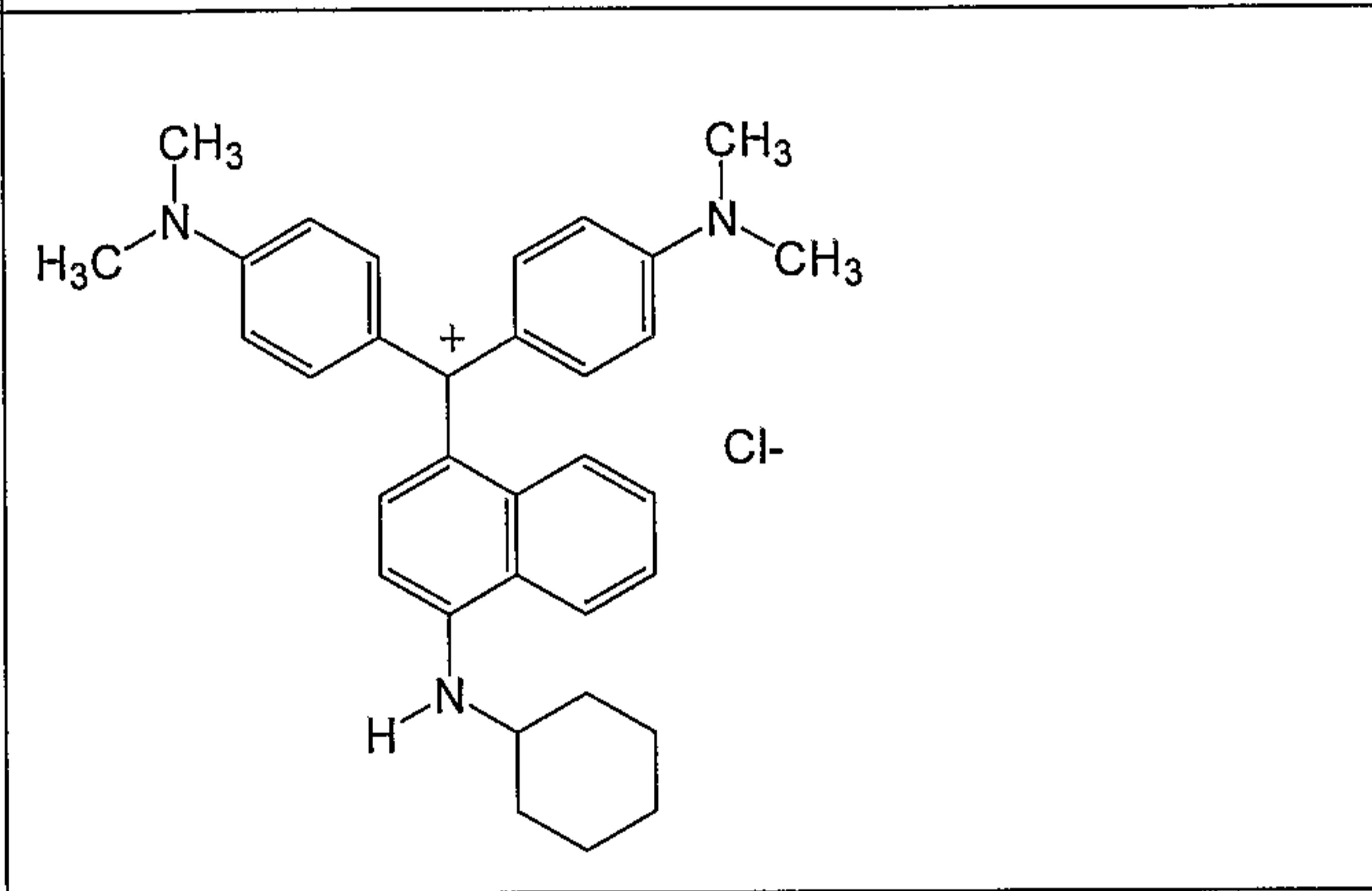
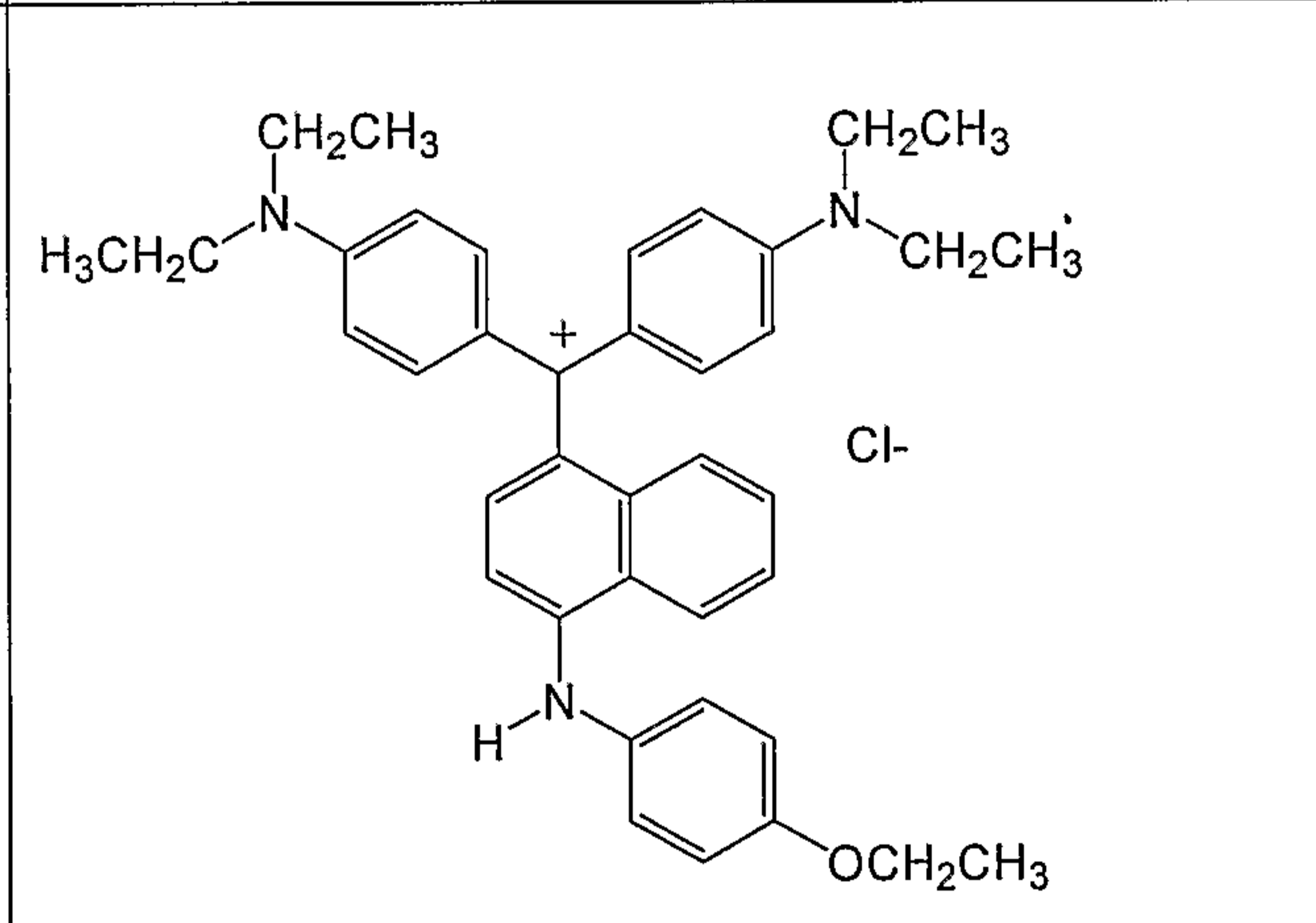
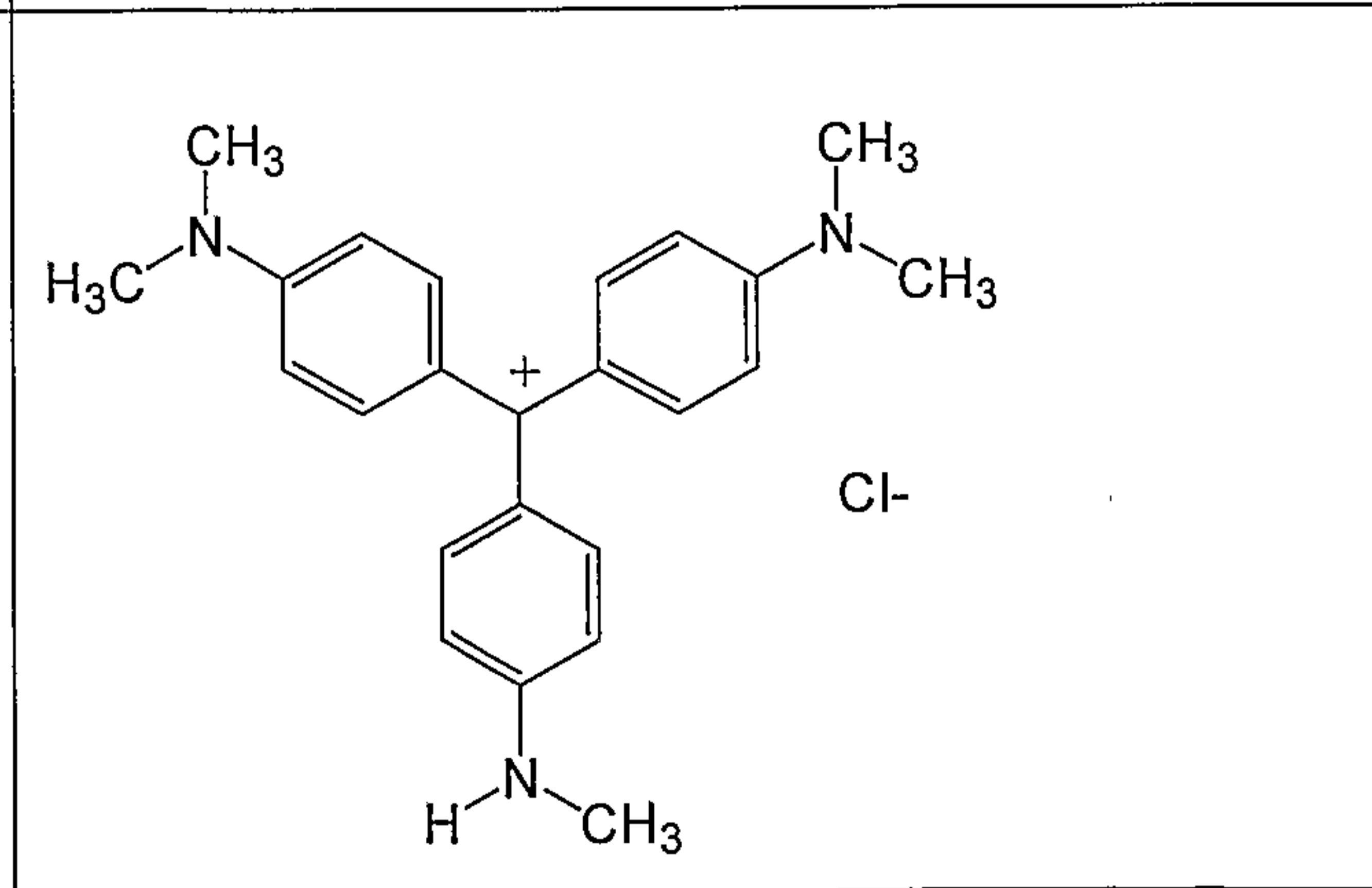
Exemplary dyes which exhibit the combination of hueing efficiency and wash removal value according to the invention include certain triarylmethane blue and violet basic dyes as set forth in Table 2, methine blue and violet basic dyes as set forth in Table 3, anthraquinone dyes as set forth in Table 4, anthraquinone dyes basic blue 35 and basic blue 80, azo dyes basic blue 16, basic blue 65, basic blue 66 basic blue 67, basic blue 71, basic blue 159, basic violet 19, basic violet 35, basic violet 38, basic violet 48, oxazine dyes basic blue 3, basic blue 75, basic blue 95, basic blue 122, basic blue 124, basic blue 141, Nile blue A and xanthene dye basic violet 10, and mixtures thereof.

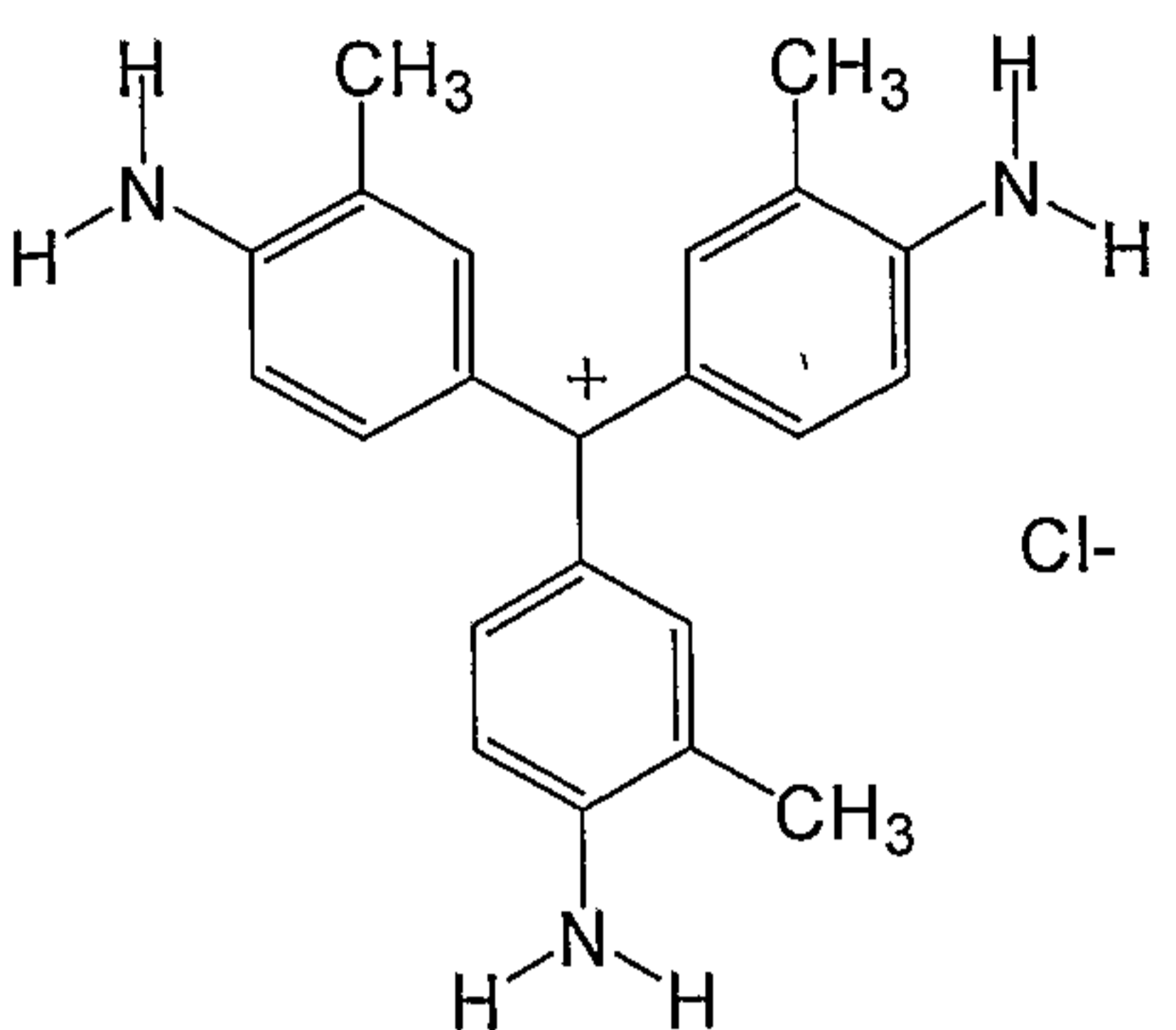
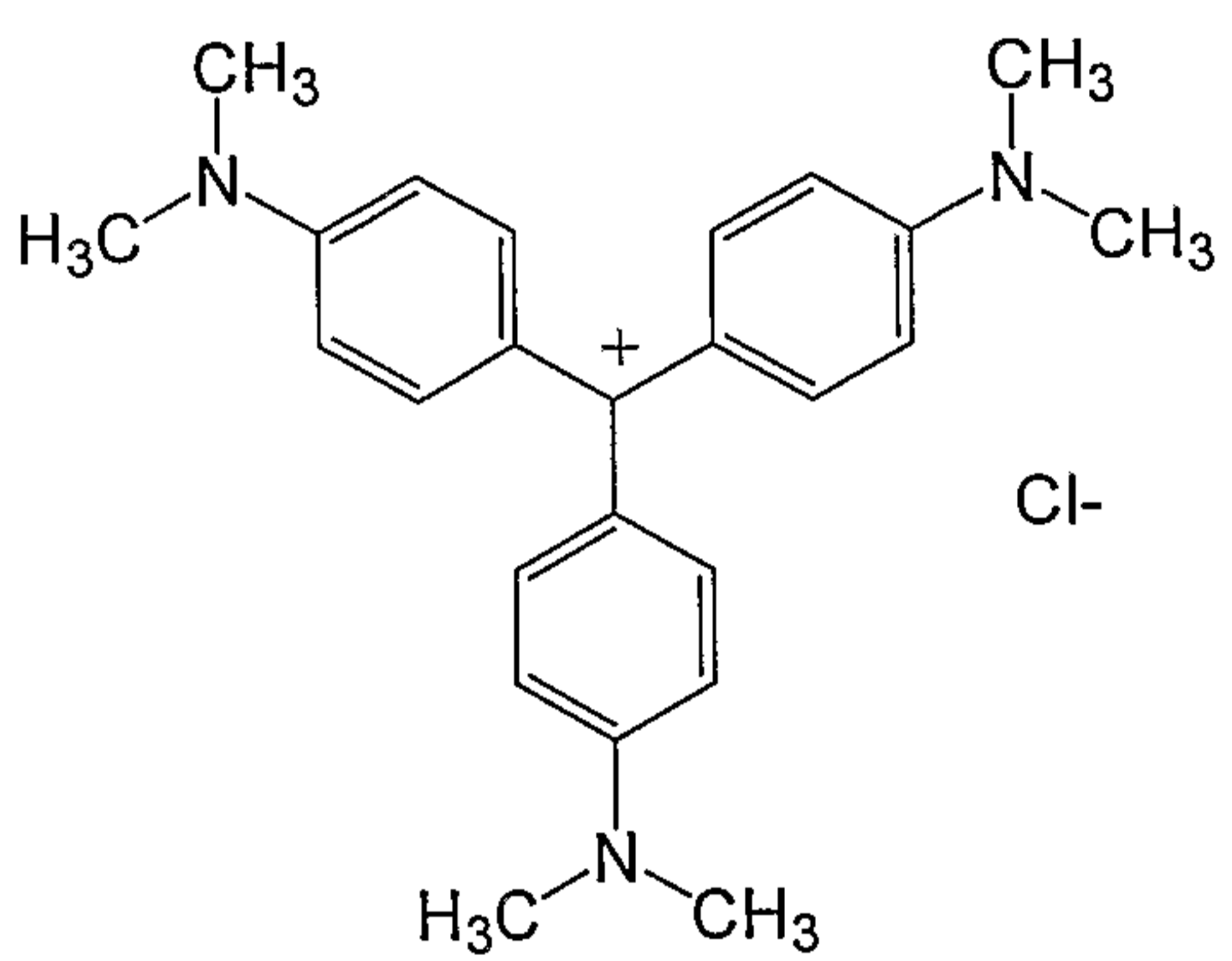
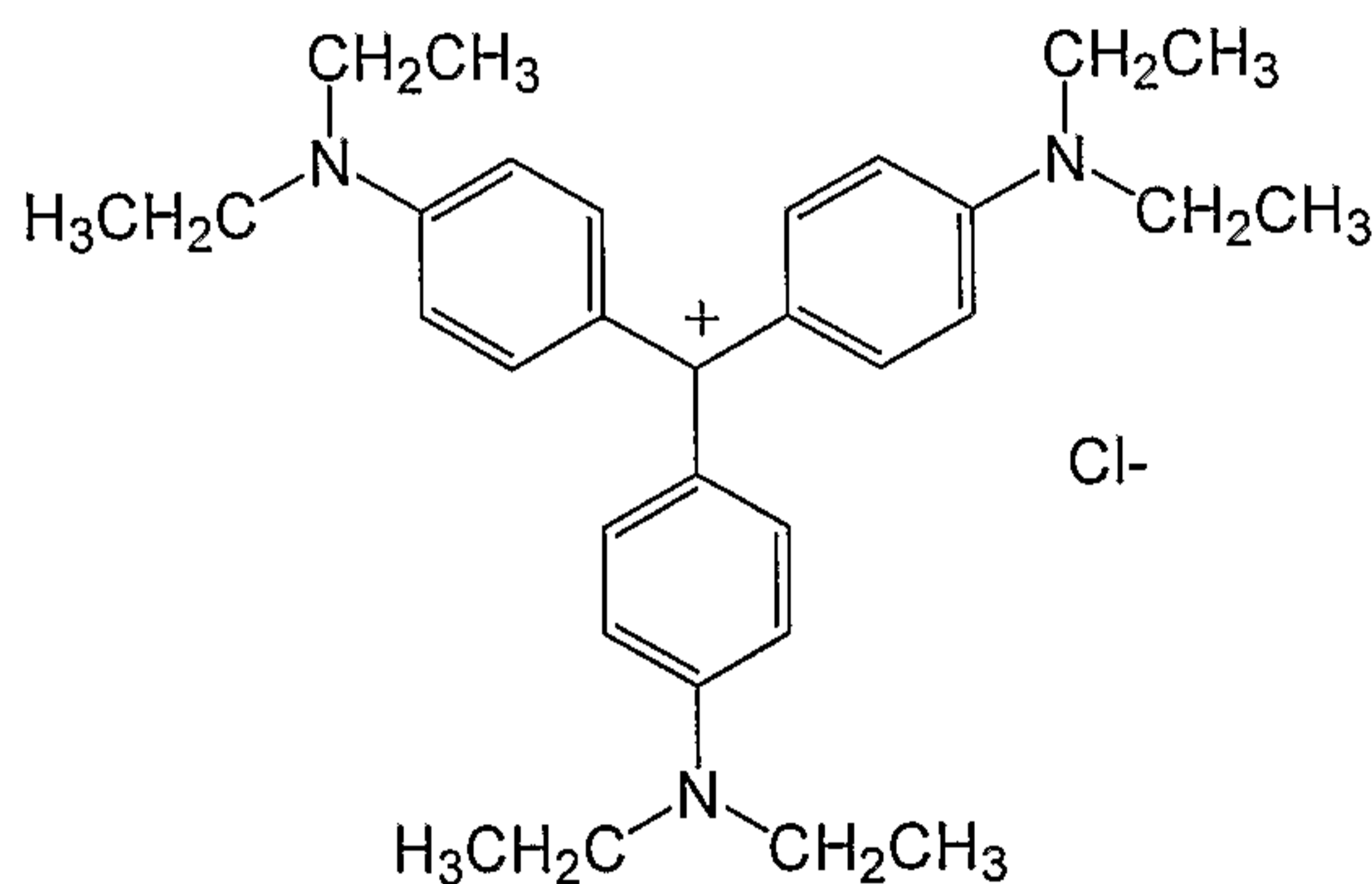
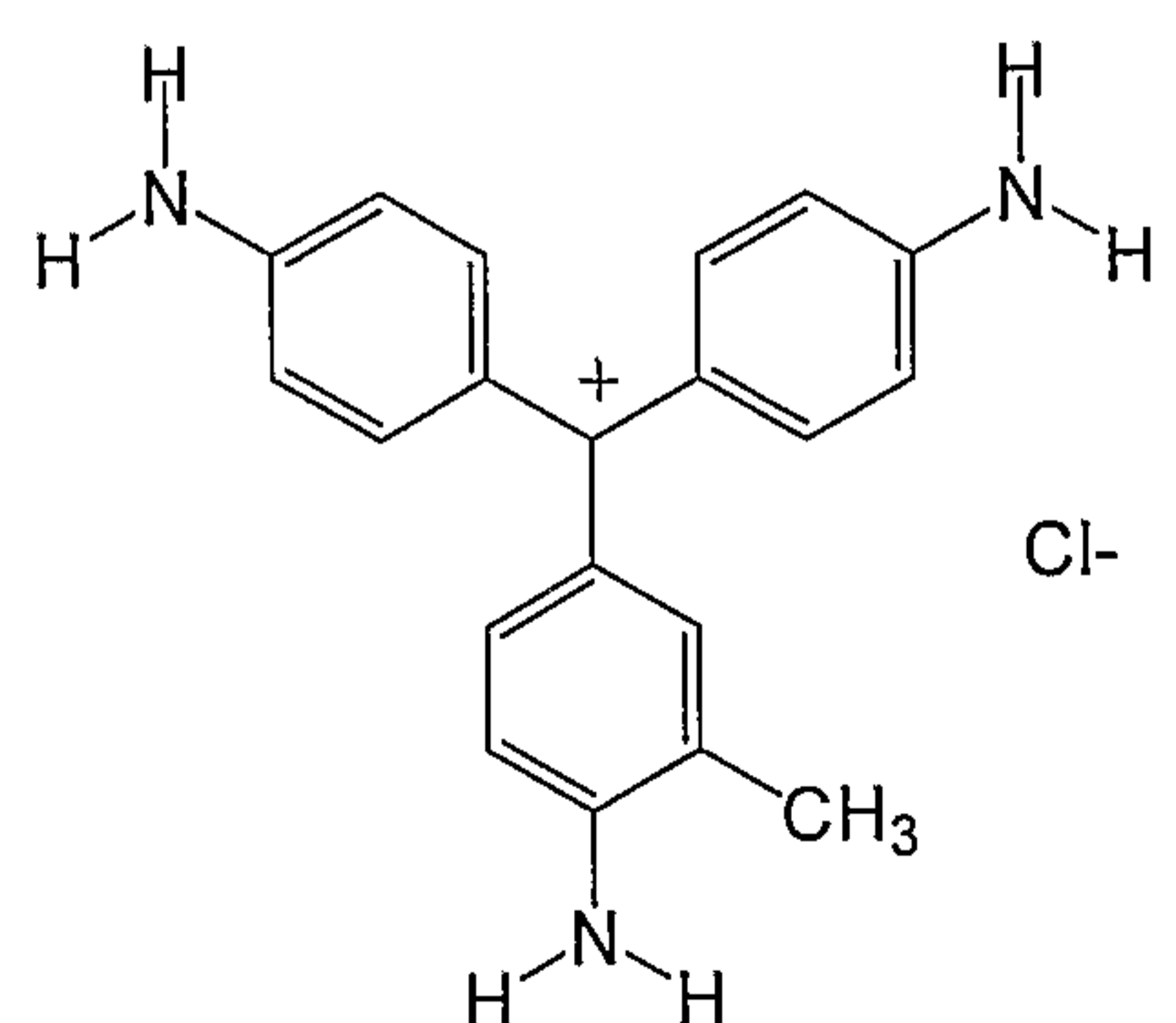
Table 2

CI name	CI constitution number	Structure
Basic Blue 1	42025	

Basic Blue 5	42140	 <p>Chemical structure of Basic Blue 5: A central carbon atom is bonded to two 3-methyl-4-(diethylamino)phenyl groups and a 2-chlorophenyl group. A chloride ion (Cl-) is shown as a counterion.</p>
Basic Blue 7	42595	 <p>Chemical structure of Basic Blue 7: A central carbon atom is bonded to two 4-(diethylamino)phenyl groups and a 2-(diethylamino)naphthalen-1-yl group. A chloride ion (Cl-) is shown as a counterion.</p>
Basic Blue 8	42563	 <p>Chemical structure of Basic Blue 8: A central carbon atom is bonded to two 4-(dimethylamino)phenyl groups and a 2-(dimethylamino)naphthalen-1-yl group. A chloride ion (Cl-) is shown as a counterion.</p>
Basic Blue 11	44040	 <p>Chemical structure of Basic Blue 11: A central carbon atom is bonded to two 4-(dimethylamino)phenyl groups and a 2-(diethylamino)naphthalen-1-yl group. A chloride ion (Cl-) is shown as a counterion.</p>

Basic Blue 15	44085	
Basic Blue 18	42705	
Basic Blue 20	42585	
Basic Blue 23	42140	

Basic Blue 26	44045	 <chem>CN(C)c1ccc(cc1)C2(Cc3ccc(NC)cc3)C4=CC=CC=C4N</chem>
Basic Blue 55	44044	 <chem>CN(C)c1ccc(cc1)C2(Cc3ccc(NC)cc3)C4=CC=CC=C4N5CCCCC5</chem>
Basic Blue 81	42598	 <chem>CCN(CC)c1ccc(cc1)C2(Cc3ccc(NC)cc3)C4=CC=CC=C4N5=CC=C(C=C5)OCC</chem>
Basic Violet 1	42535	 <chem>CN(C)c1ccc(cc1)C2(Cc3ccc(NC)cc3)C4=CC=CC=C4N</chem>

Basic Violet 2	42520	 <chem>Cc1ccc(N)cc1C(c2ccc(N)cc2C)c3ccc(N)cc3.[Cl-]</chem>
Basic Violet 3	42555	 <chem>CN(C)c1ccc(N(C)C)cc1C(c2ccc(N(C)C)cc2)C3=CC=CC=C3N(C)C.[Cl-]</chem>
Basic Violet 4	42600	 <chem>CCN(CC)c1ccc(N(CC)CC)cc1C(c2ccc(N(CC)CC)cc2)C3=CC=CC=C3N(CC)CC.[Cl-]</chem>
Basic Violet 14	42510	 <chem>Cc1ccc(N)cc1C(c2ccc(N)cc2)C3=CC=CC=C3N.[Cl-]</chem>

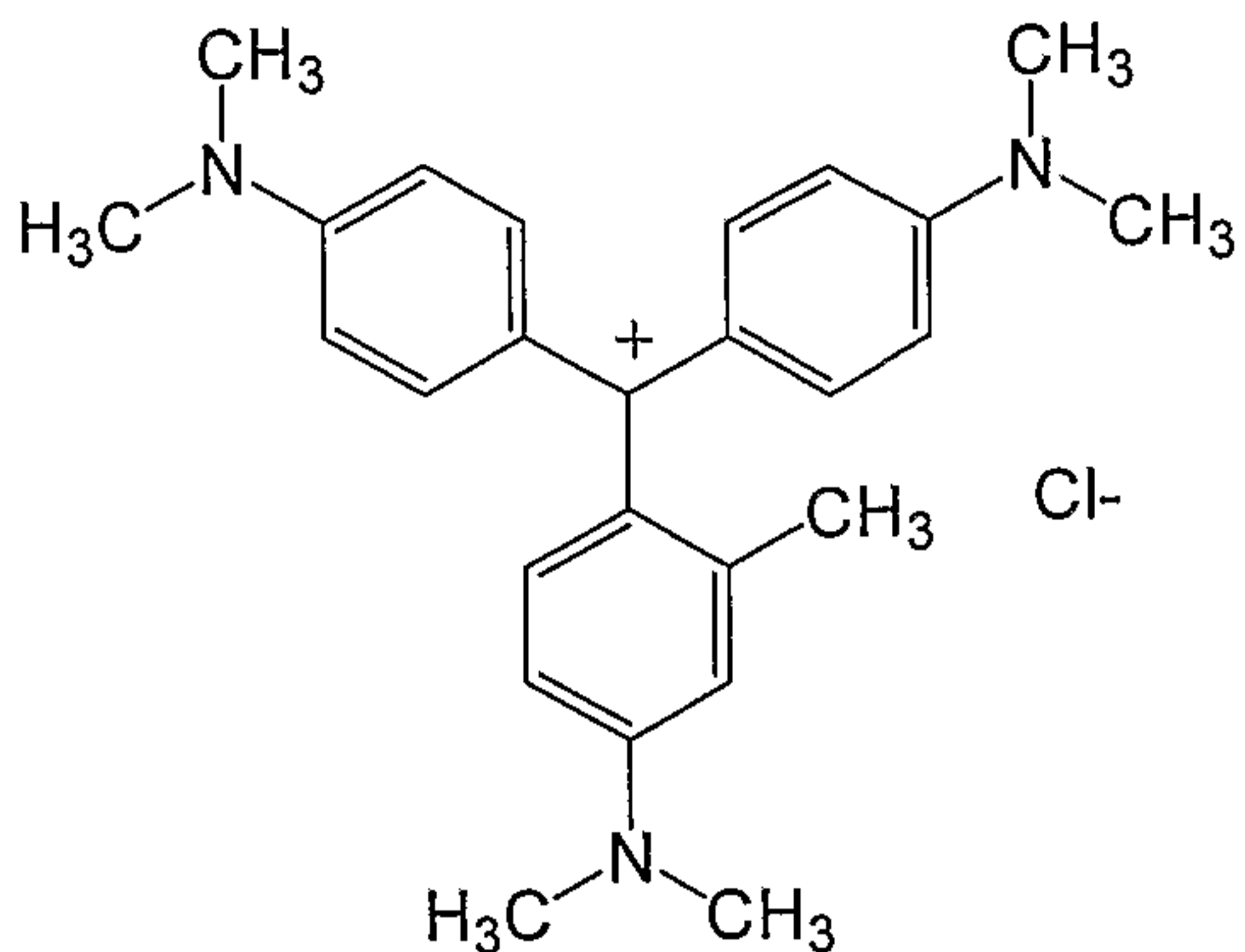
Basic Violet 23	42557	
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Table 3

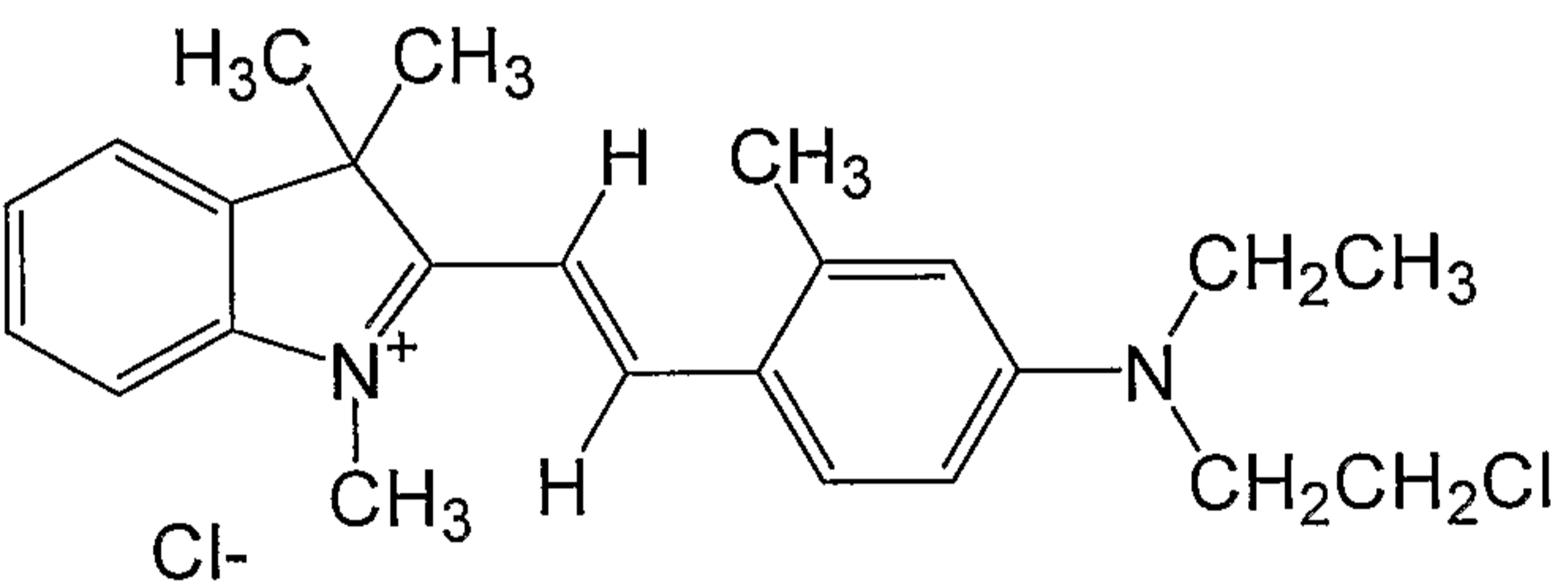
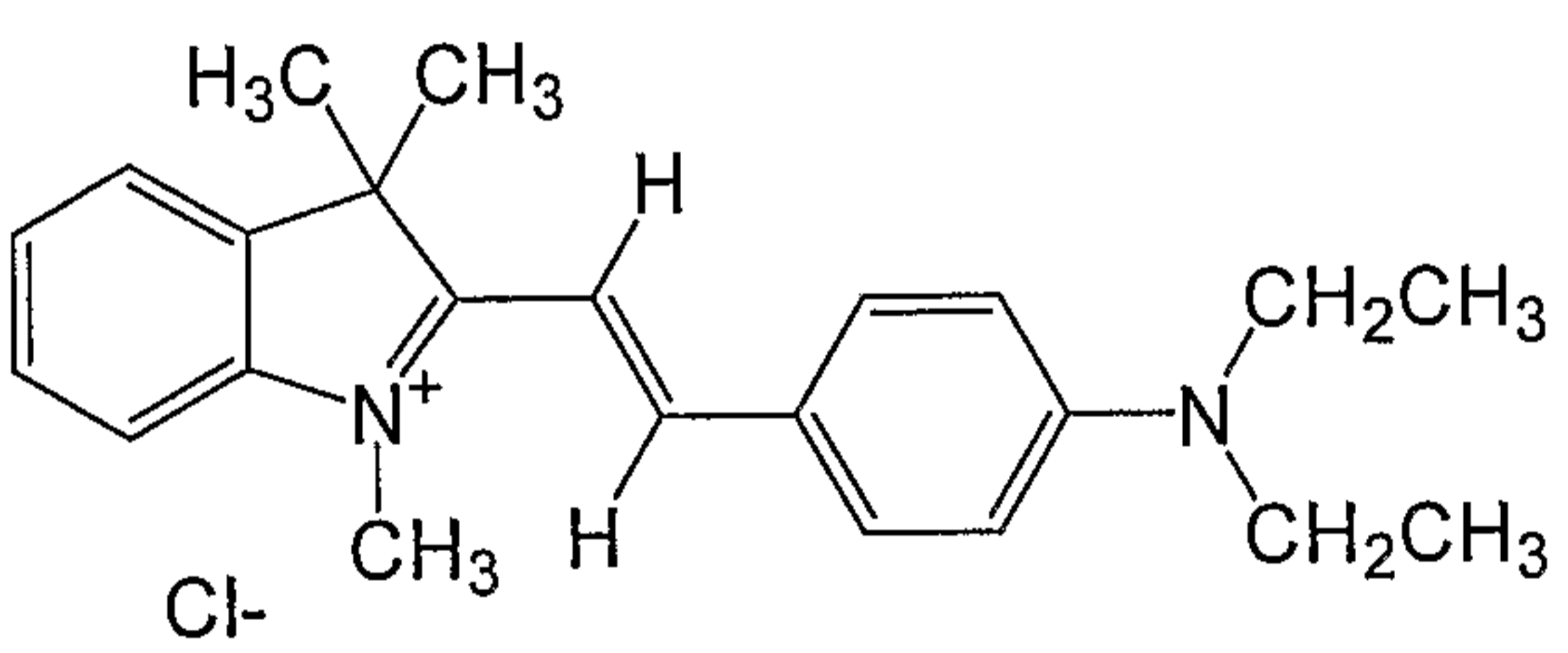
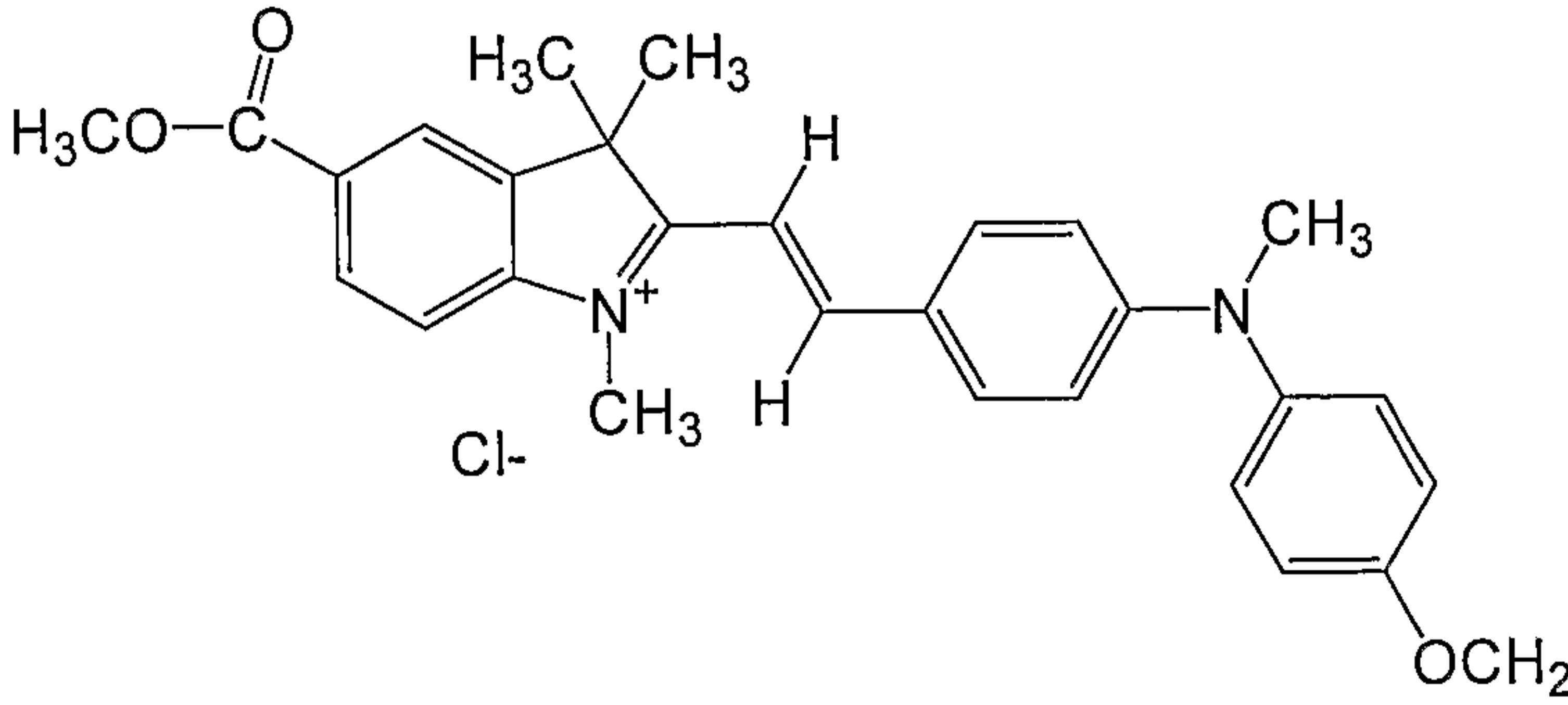
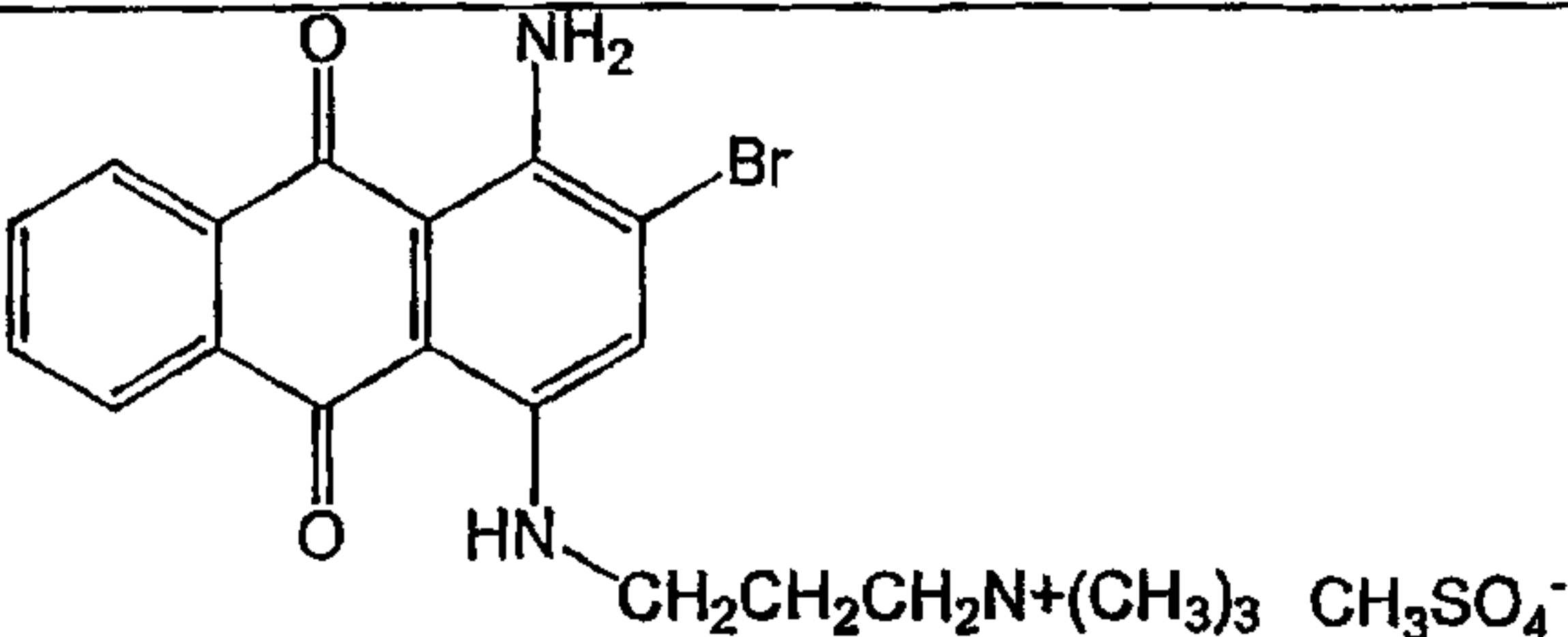
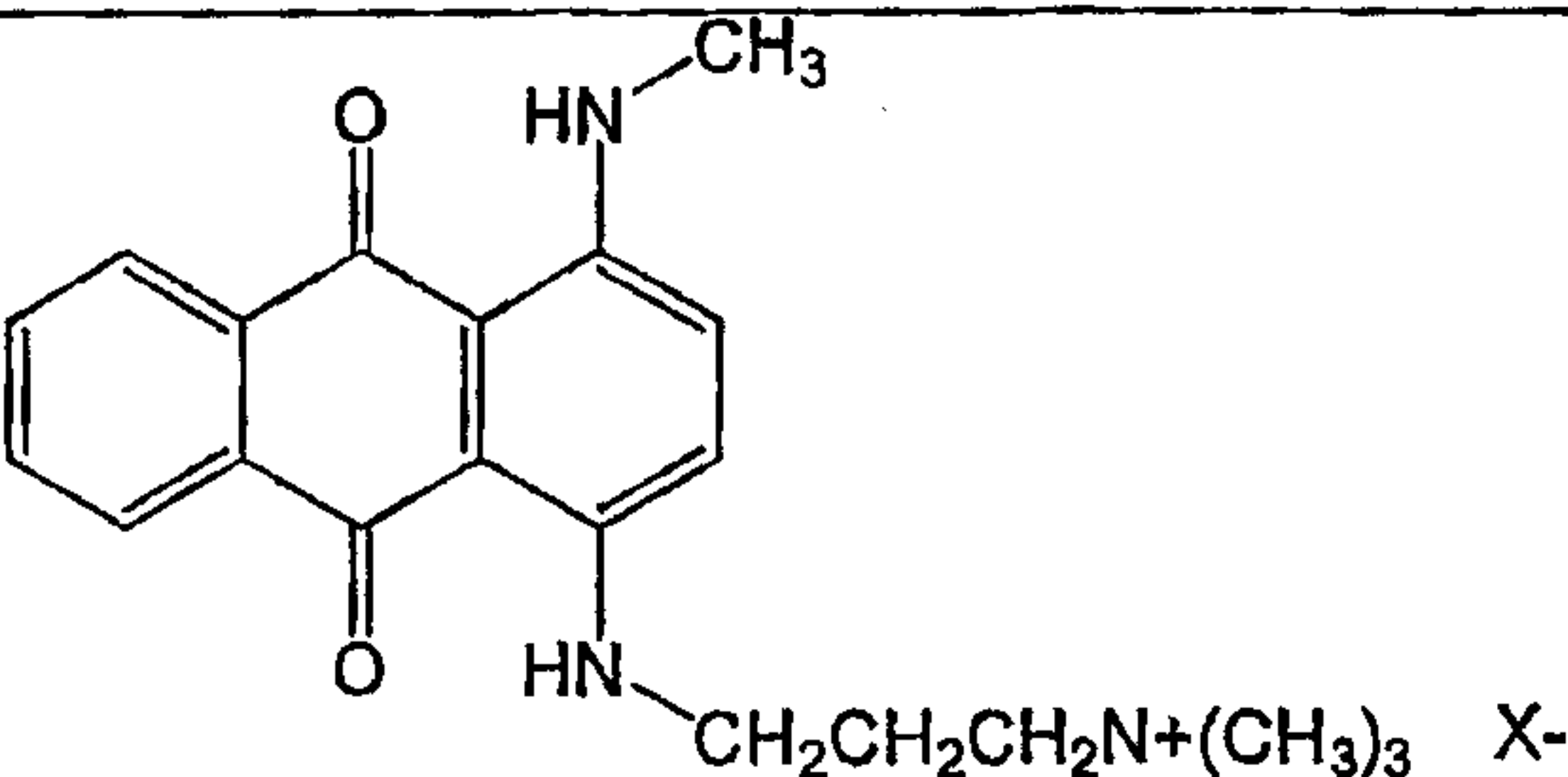
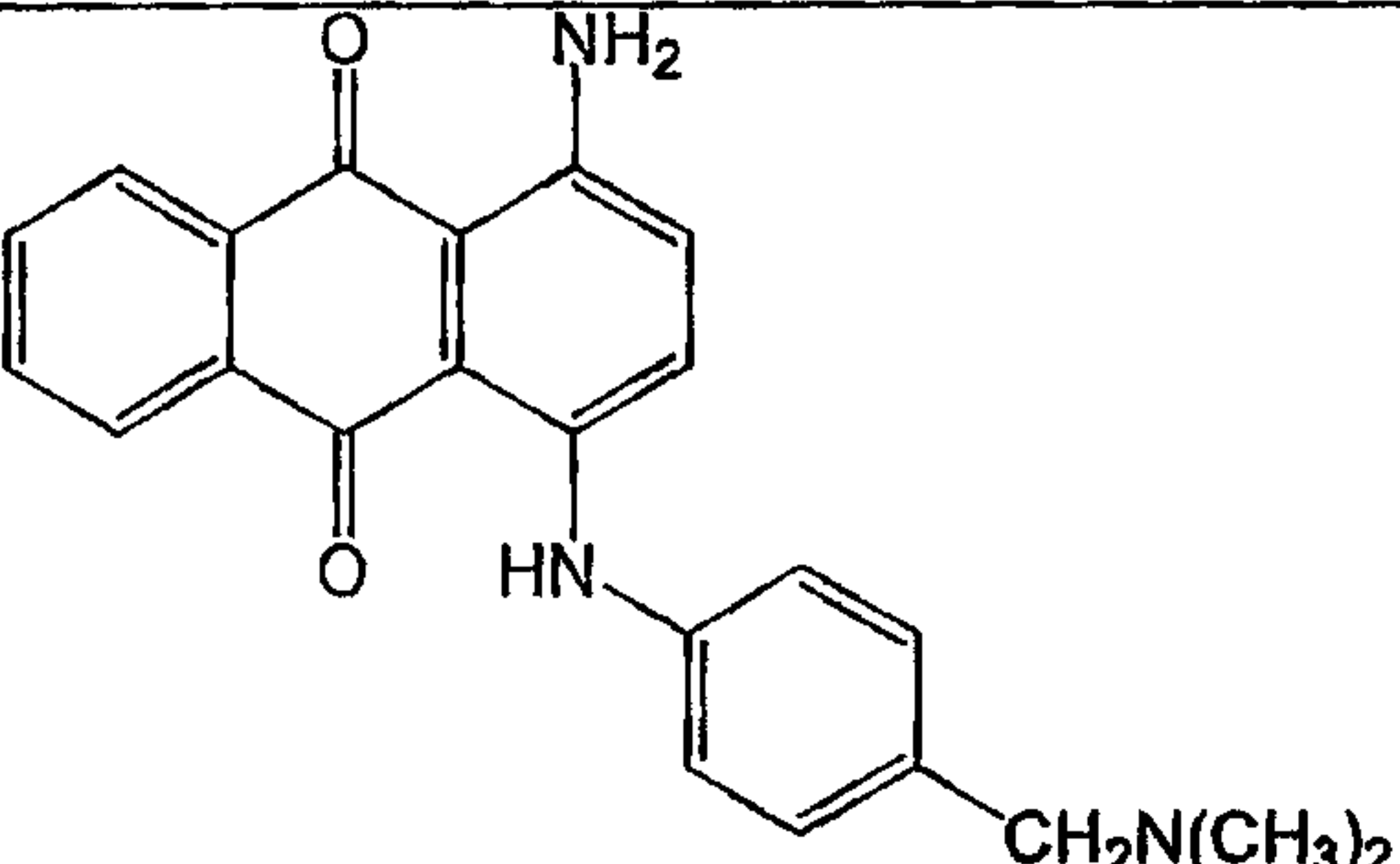
CI name	CI constitution number	Structure
Basic Violet 7	48020	
Basic Violet 16	48013	
Basic Violet 21	48030	

Table 4

CI name	CI constitution number	Structure
Basic Blue 21		
Basic Blue 22	61512	
Basic Blue 47	61111	

United States Patents 3,157,663, 3,927,044, 4,113,721, 4,400,320, 4,601,725, 4,871,371, 5,766,268, 5,770,552, 5,770,557, 5,773,405 and 6,417,155 to Milliken Research Corporation, describe colorants containing polyoxyalkylenes soluble in polar solvents. Such materials can be used in the present invention when the resultant colorant exhibits a hueing efficiency of at least 10 and a wash removal value in the range of from about 30% to about 80%.

In one embodiment of the inventive detergent compositions, a non-hueing dye is also employed in combination with the hueing dye. The non-hueing dye may be non-substantive in nature. The combination of both a hueing dye and a non-hueing dye allows customization of product color and fabric tint.

As noted, the compositions may be in the form of a solid, either in tablet or particulate form, including, but not limited to particles, flakes, or the like, or the compositions may be in the form of a liquid. The liquid detergent compositions comprise an aqueous, non-surface active

liquid carrier. Generally, the amount of the aqueous, non-surface active liquid carrier employed in the compositions herein will be effective to solubilize, suspend or disperse the composition components. For example, the compositions may comprise, by weight, from about 5% to about 90%, more specifically from about 10% to about 70%, and even more specifically from about 20% to about 70% of the aqueous, non-surface active liquid carrier.

The most cost effective type of aqueous, non-surface active liquid carrier is, of course, water itself. Accordingly, the aqueous, non-surface active liquid carrier component will generally be mostly, if not completely, comprised of water. While other types of water-miscible liquids, such as alkanols, diols, other polyols, ethers, amines, and the like, have been conventionally been added to liquid detergent compositions as co-solvents or stabilizers, for purposes of the present invention, the utilization of such water-miscible liquids should be minimized to hold down composition cost. Accordingly, the aqueous liquid carrier component of the liquid detergent products herein will generally comprise water present in concentrations ranging from about 5% to about 90%, more preferably from about 20% to about 70%, by weight of the composition.

The detergent compositions of the present invention can also include any number of additional optional ingredients. These include conventional laundry detergent composition components such as deterative builders, enzymes, enzyme stabilizers (such as propylene glycol, boric acid and/or borax), suds suppressors, soil suspending agents, soil release agents, other fabric care benefit agents, pH adjusting agents, chelating agents, smectite clays, solvents, hydrotropes and phase stabilizers, structuring agents, dye transfer inhibiting agents, optical brighteners, perfumes and coloring agents. The various optional detergent composition ingredients, if present in the compositions herein, should be utilized at concentrations conventionally employed to bring about their desired contribution to the composition or the laundering operation. Frequently, the total amount of such optional detergent composition ingredients can range from about 0.1% to about 50%, more preferably from about 1% to about 30%, by weight of the composition.

The liquid detergent compositions herein are in the form of an aqueous solution or uniform dispersion or suspension of surfactant, hueing dye, and certain optional other ingredients, some of which may normally be in solid form, that have been combined with the normally liquid components of the composition, such as the liquid alcohol ethoxylate nonionic, the aqueous liquid carrier, and any other normally liquid optional ingredients. Such a solution, dispersion or suspension will be acceptably phase stable and will typically have a viscosity which ranges from about 100 to 600 cps, more preferably from about 150 to 400 cps. For purposes of this invention, viscosity is measured with a Brookfield LVDV-II+ viscometer apparatus using a #21 spindle.

The liquid detergent compositions herein can be prepared by combining the components thereof in any convenient order and by mixing, e.g., agitating, the resulting component

combination to form a phase stable liquid detergent composition. In a preferred process for preparing such compositions, a liquid matrix is formed containing at least a major proportion, and preferably substantially all, of the liquid components, e.g., nonionic surfactant, the non-surface active liquid carriers and other optional liquid components, with the liquid components being thoroughly admixed by imparting shear agitation to this liquid combination. For example, rapid stirring with a mechanical stirrer may usefully be employed. While shear agitation is maintained, substantially all of any anionic surfactants and the solid form ingredients can be added. Agitation of the mixture is continued, and if necessary, can be increased at this point to form a solution or a uniform dispersion of insoluble solid phase particulates within the liquid phase. After some or all of the solid-form materials have been added to this agitated mixture, particles of any enzyme material to be included, e.g., enzyme prills, are incorporated. As a variation of the composition preparation procedure hereinbefore described, one or more of the solid components may be added to the agitated mixture as a solution or slurry of particles premixed with a minor portion of one or more of the liquid components. After addition of all of the composition components, agitation of the mixture is continued for a period of time sufficient to form compositions having the requisite viscosity and phase stability characteristics. Frequently this will involve agitation for a period of from about 30 to 60 minutes.

In an alternate embodiment for forming the liquid detergent compositions, the hueing dye is first combined with one or more liquid components to form a hueing dye premix, and this hueing dye premix is added to a composition formulation containing a substantial portion, for example more than 50% by weight, more specifically, more than 70% by weight, and yet more specifically, more than 90% by weight, of the balance of components of the laundry detergent composition. For example, in the methodology described above, both the hueing dye premix and the enzyme component are added at a final stage of component additions. In a further embodiment, the hueing dye is encapsulated prior to addition to the detergent composition, the encapsulated dye is suspended in a structured liquid, and the suspension is added to a composition formulation containing a substantial portion of the balance of components of the laundry detergent composition.

As noted previously, the detergent compositions may be in a solid form. Suitable solid forms include tablets and particulate forms, for example, granular particles or flakes. Various techniques for forming detergent compositions in such solid forms are well known in the art and may be used herein. In one embodiment, for example when the composition is in the form of a granular particle, the hueing dye is provided in particulate form, optionally including additional but not all components of the laundry detergent composition. The hueing dye particulate is combined with one or more additional particulates containing a balance of components of the

laundry detergent composition. Further, the hueing dye, optionally including additional but not all components of the laundry detergent composition may be provided in an encapsulated form, and the hueing dye encapsulate is combined with particulates containing a substantial balance of components of the laundry detergent composition.

The compositions of this invention, prepared as hereinbefore described, can be used to form aqueous washing solutions for use in the laundering of fabrics. Generally, an effective amount of such compositions is added to water, preferably in a conventional fabric laundering automatic washing machine, to form such aqueous laundering solutions. The aqueous washing solution so formed is then contacted, preferably under agitation, with the fabrics to be laundered therewith. An effective amount of the liquid detergent compositions herein added to water to form aqueous laundering solutions can comprise amounts sufficient to form from about 500 to 7,000 ppm of composition in aqueous washing solution. More preferably, from about 1,000 to 3,000 ppm of the detergent compositions herein will be provided in aqueous washing solution. The present detergent compositions comprising surfactant and a hueing dye exhibiting the hueing efficiency and wash removal value according to the present disclosure have been found to exhibit good tinting efficiency during a laundry wash cycle without exhibiting excessive undesirable build up after laundering.

EXAMPLES

The following examples illustrate the compositions of the present invention but are not necessarily meant to limit or otherwise define the scope of the invention herein.

Example 1

The following liquid formulas are within the scope of the present invention.

Ingredient	1a	1b	1c	1d	1e	1f ⁵
	wt %	wt %	wt %	wt %	wt %	wt %
Sodium alkyl ether sulfate	14.4%	14.4%		9.2%	5.4%	
linear alkylbenzene sulfonic acid	4.4%	4.4%	12.2%	5.7%	1.3%	22.0%
alkyl ethoxylate	2.2%	2.2%	8.8%	8.1%	3.4%	18.0%
amine oxide	0.7%	0.7%	1.5%			
citric acid	2.0%	2.0%	3.4%	1.9%	1.0%	1.6%
fatty acid	3.0%	3.0%	8.3%			16.0%
protease	1.0%	1.0%	0.7%	1.0%		2.5%
amylase	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%			0.3%
Lipase				0.2%		

Borax	1.5%	1.5%	2.4%	2.9%		
Calcium and sodium formate	0.2%	0.2%				
Formic acid						1.1%
amine ethoxylate polymers	1.8%	1.8%	2.1%			3.2%
Sodium polyacrylate					0.2%	
Sodium polyacrylate copolymer				0.6%		
DTPA ¹	0.1%	0.1%				0.9%
DTPMP ²			0.3%			
EDTA ³					0.1%	
fluorescent whitening agent	0.15%	0.15%	0.2%	0.12%	0.12%	0.2%
Ethanol	2.5%	2.5%	1.4%	1.5%		
propanediol	6.6%	6.6%	4.9%	4.0%		15.7%
sorbitol				4.0%		
ethanolamine	1.5%	1.5%	0.8%	0.1%		11.0%
Sodium hydroxide	3.0%	3.0%	4.9%	1.9%	1.0%	
Sodium cumene sulfonate			2.0%			
silicone suds suppressor			0.01%			
perfume	0.3%	0.3%	0.7%	0.3%	0.4%	0.6%
Basic Blue 21	0.013%					
Basic Violet 3		0.001%			0.0005%	
Basic Violet 4			0.005%	0.003%		0.001%
Acid Blue 7 ⁴		0.0003%				
Water	balance	balance	balance	balance	balance	balance
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

¹ diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid, sodium salt

² diethylenetriaminepentakismethylenephosphonic acid, sodium salt

³ ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, sodium salt

⁴ a non-tinting dye used to adjust formula color

⁵ compact formula, packaged as a unitized dose in polyvinyl alcohol film

Example 2

The following granular detergent formulas are within the scope of the present invention.

Ingredient	2a	2b	2c	
	wt %	wt %	wt %	¹ formulated
Na linear alkylbenzene sulfonate	3.4%	3.3%	11.0%	as a particle
Na alkylsulfate	4.0%	4.1%		containing
Na alkyl sulfate (branched)	9.4%	9.6%		1% dye, 34%
alkyl ethoxylate			3.5%	tallow
type A zeolite	37.4%	35.4%	26.8%	alcohol(EO)25,
Sodium carbonate	22.3%	22.5%	35.9%	65%
Sodium sulfate	1.0%		18.8%	sodium
Sodium silicate			2.2%	sulfate &
protease	0.1%	0.2%		moisture
amylase				² formulated
Sodium polyacrylate	1.0%	1.2%	0.7%	as a particle
carboxymethylcellulose			0.1%	containing
PEG 600		0.5%		0.5% dye,
PEG 4000		2.2%		99.5% PEG
DTPA	0.7%	0.6%		4000
fluorescent whitening agent	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	Example 3
Sodium perborate monohydrate				This
Sodium percarbonate		5.0%		example
Sodium nonanoyloxybenzenesulfonate		5.3%		demonstrates
silicone suds suppressor	0.02%	0.02%		the
perfume	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	procedure
Basic Blue 21 ¹	0.004%			for
Basic Blue 71 ¹			0.002%	determining
Basic Violet 35 ²		0.006%		the dye
water and miscellaneous	balance	balance	balance	hueing
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	efficiency
				and wash

removal value of dyes.

Specifically, for each dye to be evaluated, a 25 cm x 25 cm fabric piece of 16 oz cotton interlock knit fabric (270 g/square meter, brightened with Uvitex BNB fluorescent whitening

agent, obtained from Test Fabrics. P.O. Box 26, Weston, PA, 18643), is employed. The samples are washed in one liter of distilled water containing 1.55 g of AATCC standard HDL test detergent (set forth in Table 1) for 45 minutes at room temperature and rinsed. Respective samples are prepared using a detergent containing no dye (control) and using a detergent containing a 30 ppm wash concentration of a dye to be tested. After rinsing and drying, the hueing dye efficiency is assessed by measuring the DE^*_{eff} , as defined previously.

The wash removal value is then assessed by washing 15 cm x 5 cm pieces of the fabric samples resulting from the hueing efficiency test described above. The samples are washed in a Launderometer for 45 minutes at 49°C in 150 ml of detergent solution (per AATCC Test Method 61-2003, Test 2A). Detergent concentration is 1.55 g/ liter of the AATCC HDL formulation set forth in Table 1 in distilled water. After rinsing and air drying in the dark, the amount of residual coloration was assessed by measuring the DE^*_{res} , as defined previously. These procedures were used to assess the dyes set forth in Table 5, the results of which are also set forth in Table 5.

Table 5

Sample	Dye	Type	CI number	DE^*_{eff}	Wash removal %
a	Direct Violet 9	disazo	27885	36.57	16%
b	Acid Blue 80	anthraquinone	61585	7.95	76%
c	Basic Blue 16	azo	12210	15.98	39%
d	Basic Blue 35	anthraquinone		12.30	41%
e	Basic Blue 66	azo	11075	32.42	43%
f	Basic Blue 11	triarylmethane	44040	16.54	44%
g	Basic Violet 3	triarylmethane	42555	48.79	49%
h	Basic Violet 4	triarylmethane	42600	41.65	51%
i	Basic Blue 7	triarylmethane	42080	22.50	51%
j	Basic Blue 159	azo		43.85	52%
k	Basic Violet 1	triarylmethane	42535	45.69	54%
l	Basic Blue 75	mono-oxazine	42576	18.03	59%
m	Basic Violet 35	azo		31.62	60%
n	Basic Blue 21	anthraquinone		18.60	62%
o	Basic Blue 26	triarylmethane	44045	13.28	65%
p	Basic Violet 7	methine	48020	55.71	67%
q	Basic Blue 47	anthraquinone	61111	14.52	67%
r	Basic Violet 2	triarylmethane	42520	42.86	69%
s	Basic Violet 16	methine	48013	51.05	70%

t	Basic Blue 3	mono-oxazine	51004	25.41	72%
u	Basic Blue 1	triarylmethane	42025	23.10	74%
v	Basic Violet 21	methine	28030	33.79	74%
w	Basic Blue 22	anthraquinone	61512	10.84	80%

Sample a is a direct dye commonly used as a highly efficient tinting agent in the paper industry. It shows good tinting efficiency in this test but low wash removability, therefore leading to excessive multicycle accumulation. Sample b is disclosed for use in U.S. Patents 3,958,928, 4,110,238, 4,144,024 and is an acid dye hueing agent with low efficiency. Samples c thru w show higher tinting efficiency vs sample b and higher removability vs sample a, and satisfy the hueing efficiency and wash removal value requirements of the present invention.

While particular embodiments of the present invention have been illustrated and described, it would be obvious to those skilled in the art that various other changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. It is therefore intended to cover in the appended claims all such changes and modifications that are within the scope of this invention.

CLAIMS:

1. A laundry detergent composition, comprising (a) surfactant, and (b) a hueing dye, wherein the hueing dye is a methine basic blue dye or a methine basic violet dye, exhibits a hueing efficiency of at least 10 and a wash removal value in the range of from 30% to 80%.
2. A laundry detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the hueing dye exhibits a hueing efficiency of at least 15 and a wash removal value in the range of from 35% to 75%.
3. A laundry detergent composition according to claim 1, comprising, by weight, (a) from 5% to 90% of the surfactant, and (b) from 0.0001% to 0.05% of the hueing dye.
4. A laundry detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is in the form of a liquid.
5. A laundry detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is in the form of a solid.
6. A laundry detergent composition according to claim 1, further comprising a non-tinting dye.
7. A laundry detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant comprises anionic surfactant and nonionic surfactant.
8. A laundry detergent composition according to claim 1, further comprising one or more additional components selected from the group consisting of deterative builders, enzymes, enzyme stabilizers, suds suppressors, soil suspending agents, soil release agents, pH adjusting agents, chelating agents, smectite clays, solvents, hydrotropes, phase stabilizers, structuring agents, dye transfer inhibiting agents, optical brighteners, and perfumes.
9. A method of laundering a fabric article, comprising washing the fabric article in a wash solution comprising the laundry detergent composition according to claim 1.

10. A method of preparing a liquid laundry detergent composition according to claim 4, comprising combining the hueing dye with a liquid component to form a hueing dye premix and adding the hueing dye premix to a composition formulation containing a portion of the balance of components of the laundry detergent composition.

11. A method of preparing a liquid laundry detergent composition according to claim 4, comprising encapsulating the hueing dye, suspending the encapsulated dye in a structured liquid, and adding the encapsulated dye in the structured liquid to a composition formulation containing a portion of the balance of components of the laundry detergent composition.

12. A method of preparing a solid laundry detergent composition according to claim 5, comprising providing the hueing dye in particulate form, optionally comprising additional but not all components of the laundry detergent composition, and combining the hueing dye particulate with a second particulate containing a balance of components of the laundry detergent composition.

13. A method of preparing a solid laundry detergent composition according to claim 5, comprising encapsulating the hueing dye, optionally comprising additional but not all components of the laundry detergent composition in the resulting encapsulate, and combining the hueing dye encapsulate with particulates containing a balance of components of the laundry detergent composition.

14. A method of selecting a hueing dye for inclusion in a laundry detergent composition, the method comprising determining if the hueing dye exhibits a hueing efficiency of at least 10 and a wash removal value in the range of from 30% to 80%.