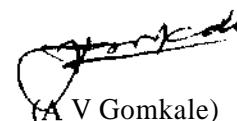


We Claim:

1. An improved process for the preparation of naphtha [1,8-cd] dithiole which comprises; treating 1,8-diaminonaphthalene with a diazotizing agent in acidic medium in the presence of antifroth agent at a temperature in the range of -20°C to 30°C, treating the mixture with copper or potassium halide in presence of a corresponding halo acid to obtain dihalo derivative, refluxing the mixture with sulphur in presence of an aprotic solvent at a temperature in the range of 140 to 180°C for a period of 4 to 6 hrs, quenching with water and separating by conventional methods such as distillation, extraction or filtration to obtain naphtho [1,8-cd] dithiole.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the diazotizing agent used is a mineral acid solution of alkali metal nitrite.
3. A process as claimed in claims 1 to 2 wherein the mineral acid used is selected from sulphuric acid and hydrochloric acid, preferably sulphuric acid.
4. A process as claimed in claims 1 to 3 wherein the alkali metal nitrite used is selected from sodium nitrite, potassium nitrite and lithium nitrite, preferably sodium nitrite.
5. A process as claimed in claims 1 to 4 wherein the antifroth agent used is an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of ethyl acetate, benzene, n-butanol, preferably butanol.
6. A process as claimed in claims 1 to 5 wherein the corresponding halo acid is selected from hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid and hydroiodic acid.
7. A process as claimed in claims 1 to 6 wherein the aprotic solvent used is selected from the group consisting of Dimethyl formamide (DMF), diemethyl sulphoxide, hexamethyl phosphoroamide, preferably DMF.
8. An improved process for the preparation of naphtha [1,8-cd] dithiole as fully described hereinbefore with reference to examples 1 to 6.

Dated 30th day of January 2001.


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