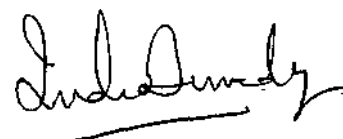


I / WE CLAIM:

1. A process for **transesterification** of ketoester using polyaniline salt as catalyst, said process comprising reacting a keto ester with an alcohol in the presence of a catalyst, at a temperature in the range of 50 to 120°C for a period in the range of 4 to 24 hrs., separating the esters from the reaction mixture to obtain the desired product.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alcohol used is selected from a group consisting of butanol, hexanol, octanol, decanol, dodecanol, behnyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol, cyclohexanol, 2-ethoxy ethanol, 2-butoxy ethanol, 3-butyne-1-ol, allyl alcohol, and menthol.
3. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst used is a polyaniline salt selected from a group consisting of **polyaniline-sulfuric** acid, polyaniline-hydrochloric acid and polyaniline-nitric acid system.
4. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out preferably at a temperature range of 100 to 110°C.
5. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ketoester used is selected from a group consisting of methyl acetoacetate, ethyl acetoacetate and phenyl acetoacetate.
6. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out preferably for a period of 20 to 24 hours.
7. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst amount used is in the range of 10 to 30 weight percent of ketoester.
8. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount of alcohol used is 1.5 to 2.5 equivalent with respect to one equivalent of keto ester.
9. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst used is recyclable.

10. A process for preparation of ester using polyaniline salt as catalyst substantially as herein described with reference to the examples.

Dated this Day of 2002



SCIENTIST, IPMD