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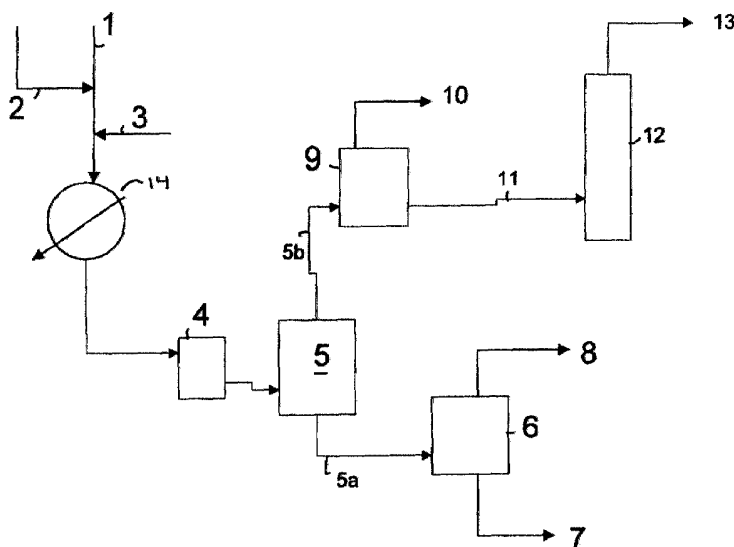
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(54) **Removal of polycyclic aromatic compounds from extracts**

(57) The invention comprises a two stage process of producing aromatic process oil containing less than three weight percent polycyclic aromatics: A single step extraction of mixed extract from a lube extraction unit is carried out in the first stage. In this feed preparation step, sulphur, nitrogen, and polycyclic aromatics are significantly reduced. This precleaned extract is then used

for the second stage, wherein a hydrogenation process is adopted to reduce polycyclic aromatics to less than three weight percent. In this process, the starting material has high polycyclic aromatics content and a final product having less than three weight percent polycyclic aromatics and greater than 40% total aromatics is obtained.

Figure 1





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 20 4357

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 4 December 2001	Examiner Deurinck, P
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div> 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 </div> <div> 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 </div>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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