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(54) **Title:** USE OF ACETALS FOR THE ISOLATION OF NUCLEIC ACIDS

(57) **Abstract:** The invention provides the use of water-miscible liquid cyclic acetals for adsorbing a nucleic acid to a solid phase such as a substrate with a silica surface. To this end, the invention also provides compositions comprising said acetals. Methods are disclosed and claimed to purify nucleic acids from samples, as well as kits useful for performing these methods. The nucleic acids purified by a method of the invention are suited for assays aiming at the detection of a target nucleic acid.



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B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C12N C12Q		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2002/192667 A1 (KOJIMA KYOKO [JP] ET AL) 19 December 2002 (2002-12-19) the whole document	1-18
A	EP 1 529 841 A (HITACHI HIGH TECH CORP [JP]) 11 May 2005 (2005-05-11) the whole document	1-18
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<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents :		
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	
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O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	*&* document member of the same patent family	
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Date of the actual completion of the international search <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">19 February 2009</p>	Date of mailing of the international search report <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">26/02/2009</p>	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Roscoe, Richard</p>	

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