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Scheibel et al.

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[54] **SOIL RELEASE AGENTS HAVING ALLYL-DERIVED SULFONATED END CAPS**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **252/549;** 252/174.19; 252/539; 252/558; 252/DIG. 15

[58] **Field of Search** 252/549

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to novel soil release agents, which are particular sulfonated linear terephthalate ester oligomers (S.T.E. oligomers). The S.T.E. oligomers are especially suitable for formulation into laundry products such as laundry detergents or fabric conditioners. Thus formulated, they provide effective soil release treatments for fabrics laundered in the home. The S.T.E. oligomers can be made by radical-initiated sulfonation of an allyl end-capped oligomeric ester precursor, and in the preferred embodiments, comprise a high proportion of disulfonate or sulfinate-sulfonate end-capping groups.

17 Claims, No Drawings