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(54) **POROUS FIBERS FROM NATURAL/ SYNTHETIC POLYMER BLENDS**

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(58) **Field of Search** 521/61, 77; 264/45.9, 264/46.1, 59

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of preparing a porous fiber, the method including blending a natural polymer having a thermal stability with a synthetic polymer having a thermal stability, wherein the thermal stability of the natural polymer is different from the thermal stability of the synthetic polymer, and wherein the natural polymer and synthetic polymer from immiscible phases; extruding the blended polymers while heating at a predetermined heating rate to the fiber spinning temperature; spinning the fibers while maintaining the temperature; and heating the fibers at a heating rate that maintains the natural polymer in a fiber form and that removes the synthetic polymer, whereby a porous fiber is formed.

9 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets