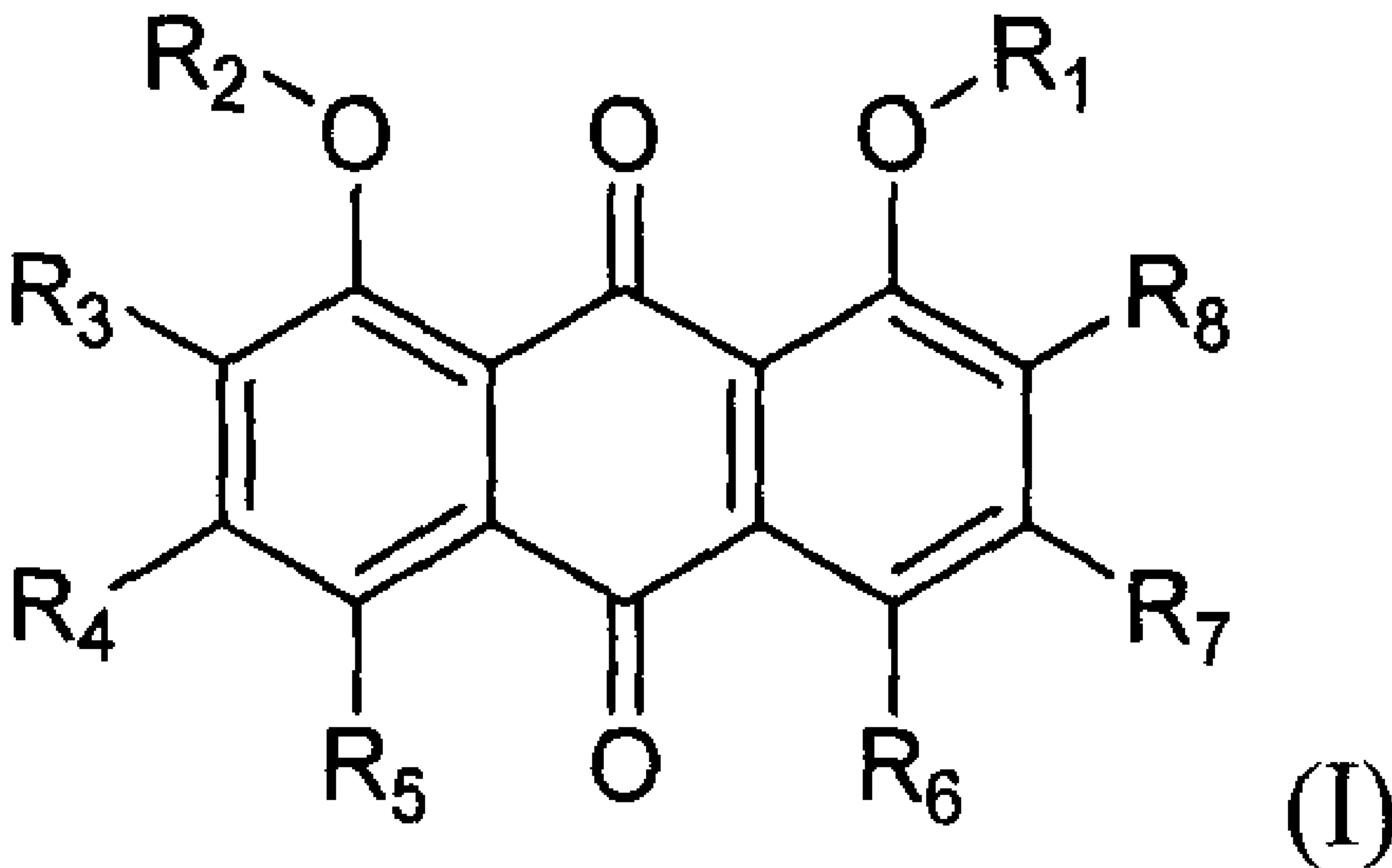




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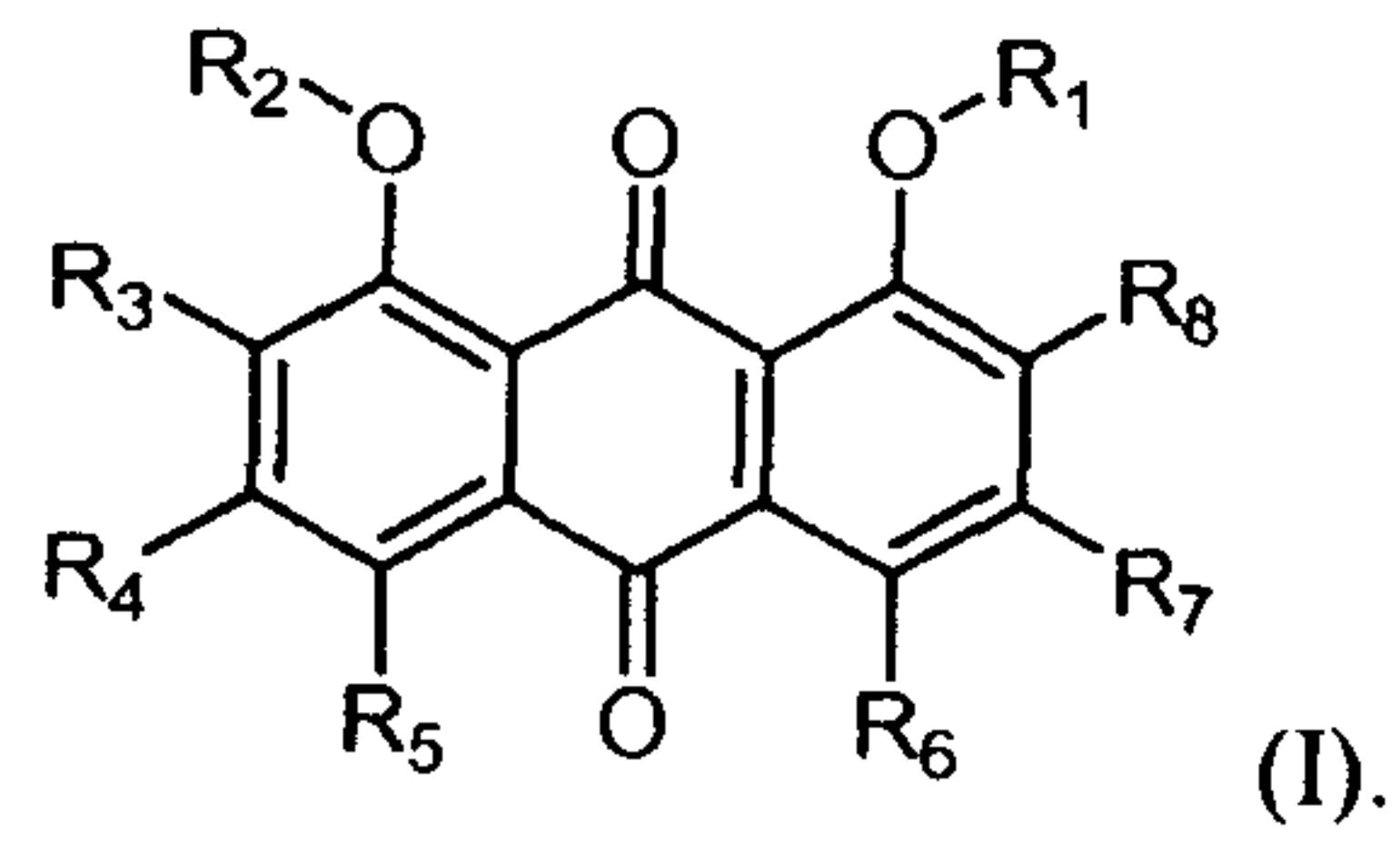
(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

This invention relates to compositions containing anthracenedione compounds of formula (1) below: (see formula I), which are useful to treat constipation, inflammatory bowel disease or irritable bowel syndrome. Each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇ and R₈ is defined in the specification.



ABSTRACT

This invention relates to compositions containing anthracenedione compounds of formula (I) below:



5 which are useful to treat constipation, inflammatory bowel disease or irritable bowel syndrome. Each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 and R_8 is defined in the specification.

ANTHRACENEDIONE COMPOUNDS

5

BACKGROUND

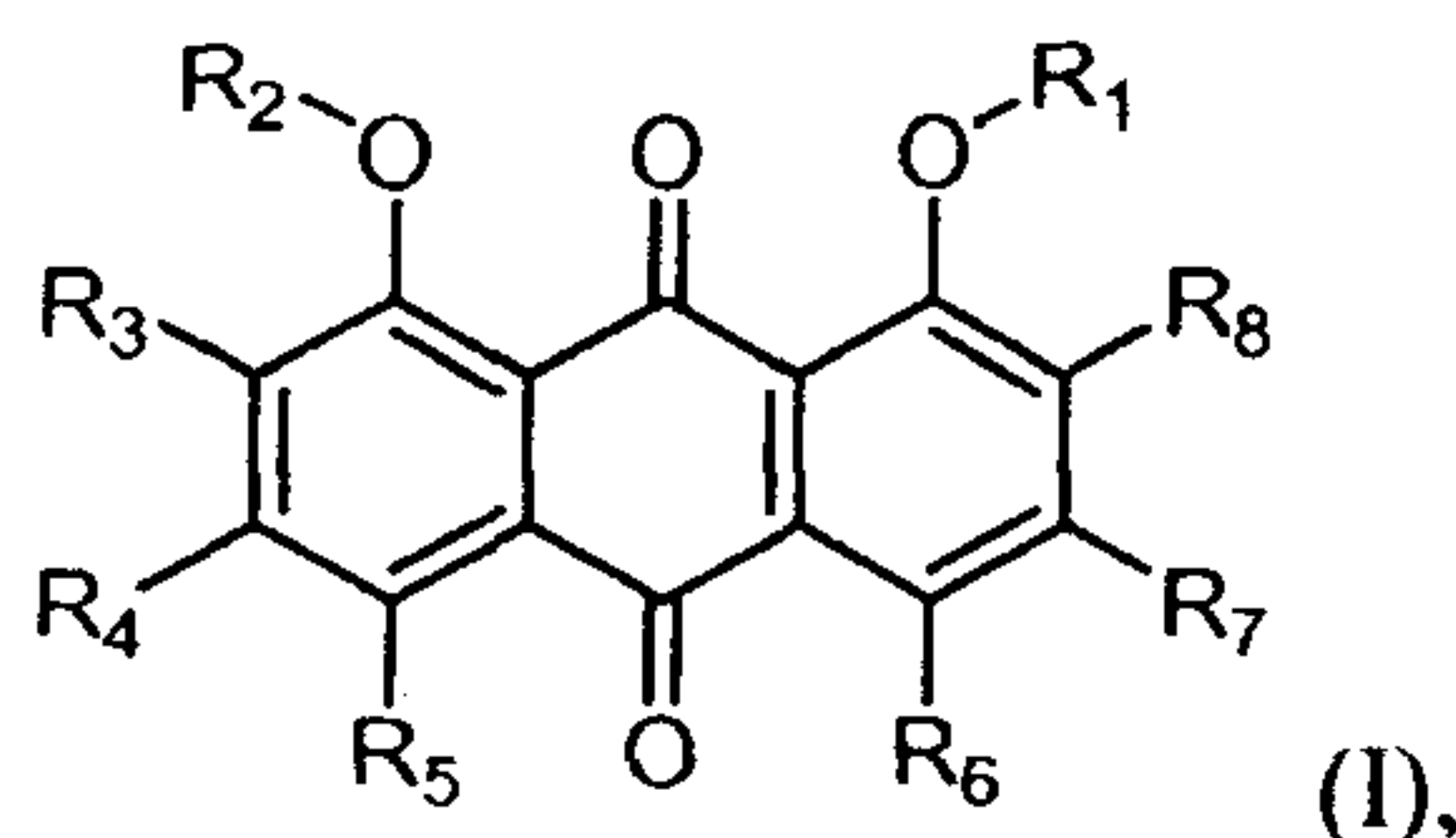
Constipation, a common and uncomfortable condition, affects about 20% of the population in the west. It is most often caused by a low-fiber diet, lack of physical activity, inadequate intake of water, or delay in going to the bathroom. Stress and travel also contribute to constipation. Other causes include bowel diseases (e.g., inflammatory
 10 bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome), cystic fibrosis, pregnancy, mental health problems, or medication.

A balanced diet, regular exercise, and reduced stress can help prevent constipation. In addition, a number of laxatives are clinically proven to provide effective relief from constipation. However, these treatments have been unsatisfactory as
 15 evidenced by new therapies. Thus, there is a need for an alternative treatment for constipation.

SUMMARY

This invention relates to compositions and methods for treating constipation.

In one aspect, this invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition, either in a
 20 dry form or a solublized form, containing a pharmaceutically acceptable enteric carrier and an anthracenedione compound of formula (I):

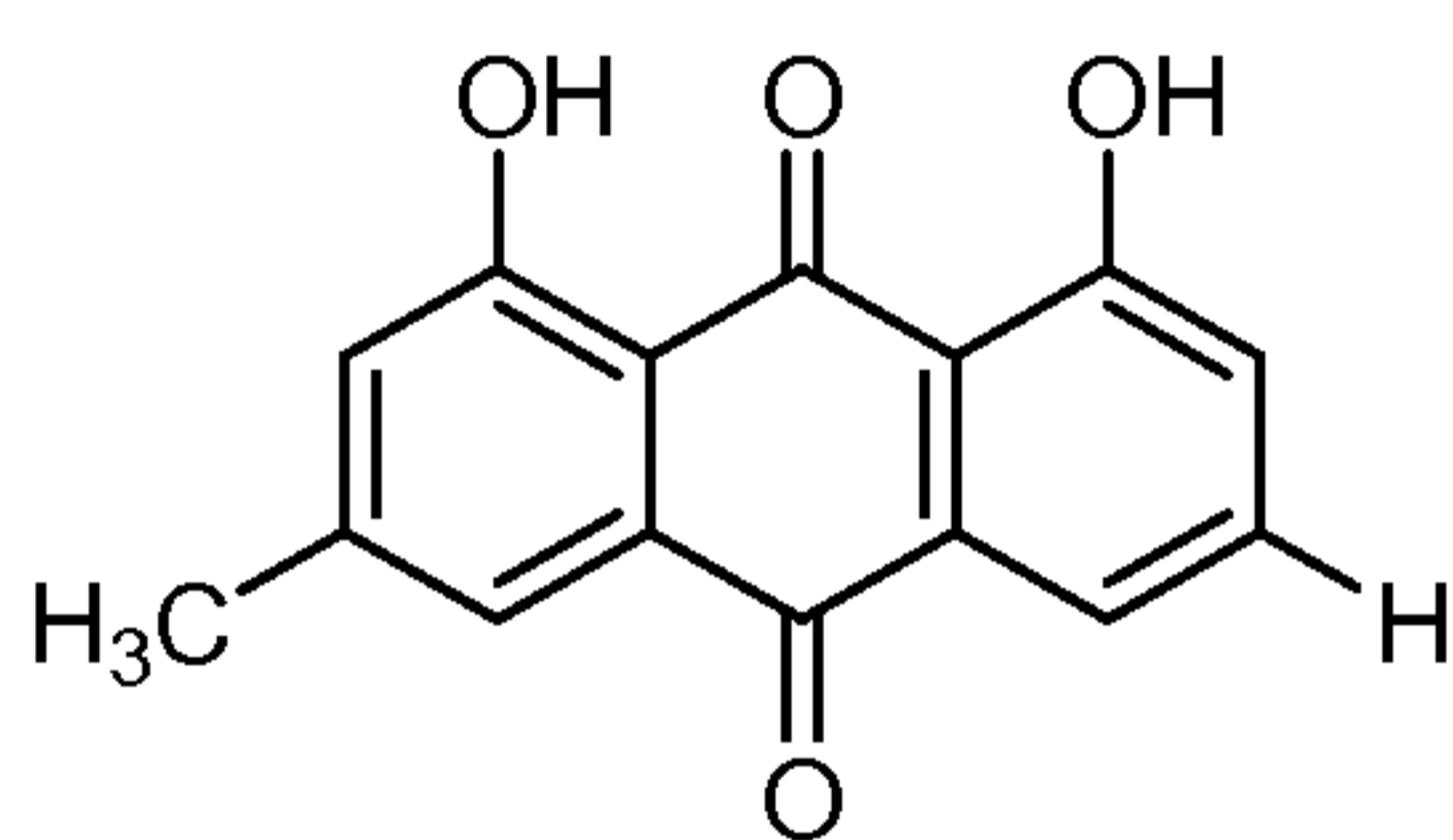


in which each of R₁ and R₂, independently, is H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, or C(O)R_a; each of R₃, R₅, R₆, and R₈, independently, is H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, or OR_b; and each of R₄ and R₇,

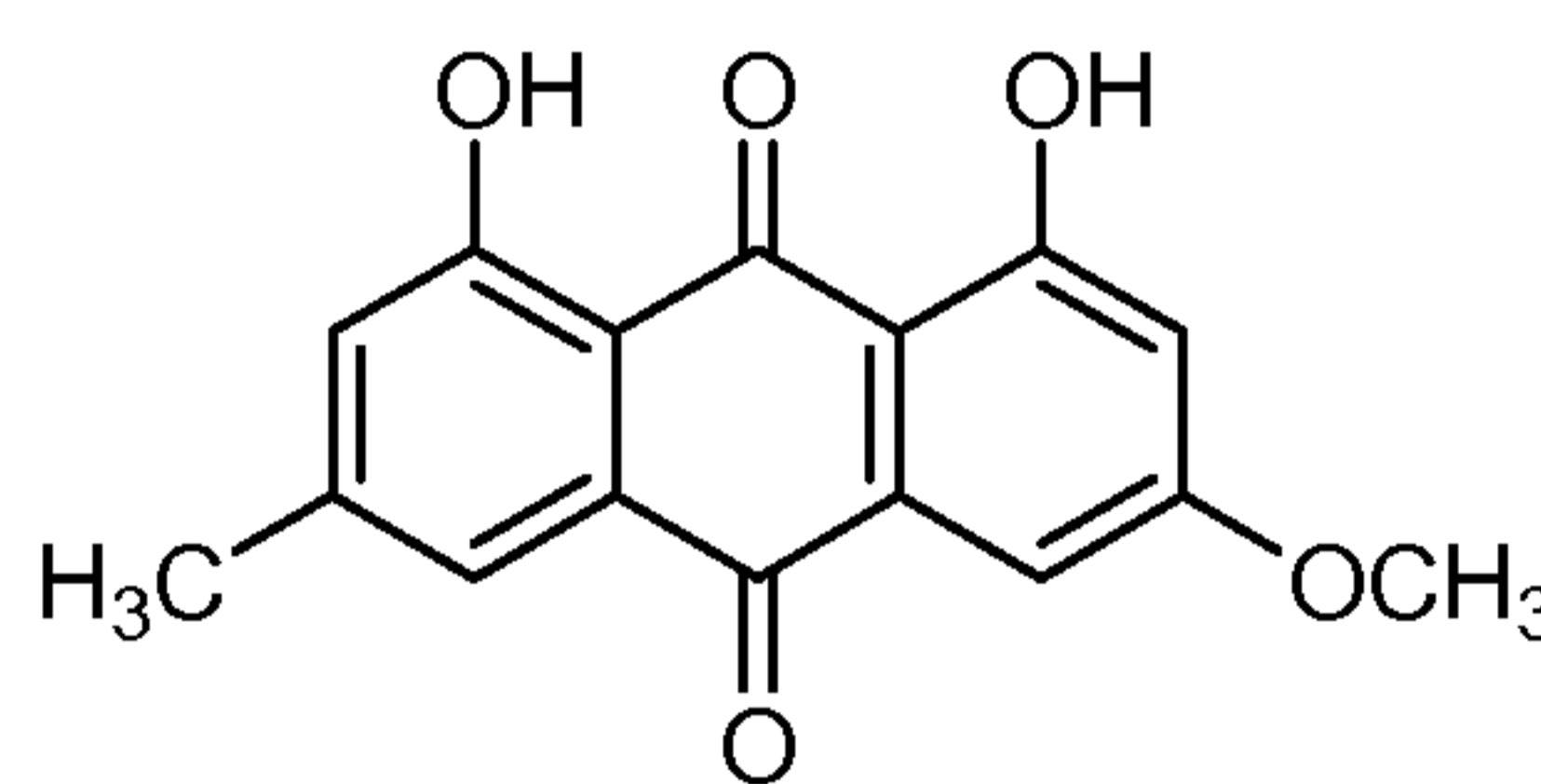
independently, is H, OR_c, COOR_c, OC(O)OR_d, SR_d, NHR_d, or C₁-C₆ alkyl optionally substituted with C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl, C₁-C₂₀ heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, OR_c, COOR_d, OC(O)OR_d, SR_d, or NHR_d; in which each of R_a and R_c is C₁-C₁₀ alkyl; and each of R_b and R_d, independently, is H or C₁-C₁₀ alkyl.

5 The compounds described above include their pharmaceutically acceptable salts and their metal complexes. The salts can be formed, e.g., between a negatively charged oxygen in a compound and a positively charged inorganic or organic ion. The metal complexes can be formed, e.g., the oxygen atoms on the compounds coordinate with one or more metallic ions.

10 Referring to formula (I), a subset of the anthracenedione compounds described above are those in which each of R₄ and R₇, independently, is H, C₁-C₆ alkyl (e.g., CH₃), or OR_c (e.g., OCH₃). In these compounds, each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₅, R₆, and R₈ can be H. Exemplary anthracenedione compounds include chrysophanol and physcion:



15 chrysophanol



physcion

The term “alkyl” refers to a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon moiety, such as -CH₃, -CH₂-CH=CH₂, or branched -C₃H₇. The term “cycloalkyl” refers to a saturated or unsaturated, non-aromatic, cyclic hydrocarbon moiety, such as cyclohexyl or cyclohexen-3-yl. The term “heterocycloalkyl” refers to a saturated or unsaturated, non-aromatic, cyclic moiety having at least one ring heteroatom (e.g., N, O, or S), such as 4-tetrahydropyranyl or 4-pyranyl. The term “aryl” refers to a hydrocarbon moiety having one or more aromatic rings. Examples of aryl moieties include phenyl, phenylene, naphthyl, naphthylene, pyrenyl, anthryl, and phenanthryl.

20 The term “heteroaryl” refers to a moiety having one or more aromatic rings that contain at least one heteroatom (e.g., N, O, or S). Examples of heteroaryl moieties include furyl, furylene, fluorenyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, quinazoliny, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, and indolyl.

Alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl mentioned herein include both substituted and unsubstituted moieties, unless specified otherwise. Possible substituents on cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl include, but are not limited to, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₅-C₈ cycloalkenyl, C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl, C₁-C₂₀ heterocycloalkyl, C₁-C₁₀ alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, amino, C₁-C₁₀ alkylamino, C₁-C₂₀ dialkylamino, arylamino, diarylamino, hydroxyl, halogen, thio, C₁-C₁₀ alkylthio, arylthio, C₁-C₁₀ alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, acylamino, aminoacyl, aminothioacyl, amidino, guanidine, ureido, cyano, nitro, acyl, thioacyl, acyloxy, carboxyl, and carboxylic ester. On the other hand, possible substituents on alkyl include all of the above-recited substituents except C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, and C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl. Cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl can also be fused with each other.

The anthracenedione compounds described above can be used to treat constipation, i.e., improve intestinal motility while maintaining normal intestinal function. Increased intestinal motility shortens the duration for food to stay in the intestine. As a result, the intestine absorbs less food, which often includes carbohydrate, fat, cholesterol, low density lipoprotein, or triglyceride. Accordingly, the anthracenedione compounds allow a subject to decrease the body's intake of these nutrients and thereby (i) decrease cholesterol or triglycerides levels or (ii) reduce or maintain the body weight. Thus, this invention also relates to a method of using these compositions to improve intestinal motility and maintain normal intestinal function, to decrease cholesterol, low density lipoprotein, or triglycerides levels, and to reduce or maintain the body weight.

In yet another aspect, this invention relates to a method of treating inflammatory bowel disease or irritable bowel syndrome using the above-mentioned anthracenedione compounds.

Also within the scope of this invention are (1) use of the anthracenedione compounds described above in treating constipation, inflammatory bowel disease, or irritable bowel syndrome, improving intestinal motility and maintaining normal intestinal function, decreasing cholesterol, low density lipoprotein, or triglycerides levels, or reducing or maintaining the body weight; and (2) use of the anthracenedione compounds

for the manufacture of a medicament or dietary supplement for the just-mentioned applications.

The details of one or more embodiments of the invention are set forth in the description below. Other features, objects, and advantages of the invention will be
5 apparent from the description and the claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

This invention is based, at least in part, on the unexpected discovery that two anthracenedione compounds, chrysophanol and physcion, found in Chinese herb *Rheum palmatum* Linne, are each effective in treating constipation. They do not have the side
10 effects often seen in herb extracts prepared from the *Rheum palmatum* Linne, e.g., cramping, bloating, gas, and diarrhea. Further, each compound has a very low enteric absorption rate and therefore has minimal overall side effects to the body.

Accordingly, within the scope of this invention is a composition that contains an enteric carrier and one or more of the anthracenedione compounds described in the
15 Summary section above. An enteric carrier is designed to minimize any fast release of a drug upon oral administration until the drug reaches the intestine. See, e.g., U.S. Patents 5,188,836 and 6,306,434.

The composition can be a pharmaceutical composition that contains a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or a dietary composition that contains a dietary
20 suitable carrier. Preferably, an anthracenedione compound is added to the composition in pure form or substantially pure form. Anthracenedione compounds for use in this invention can be chemically synthesized or purified from herbs. For example, physcion and chrysophanol can be isolated from plants listed below in Tables A and B, respectively.

Table A. Physcion-containing Plants

Family	Species
Lycopodiaceae	<i>Lycopodium japonicum</i> Thunb.
	<i>Lycopodium obscurum</i> L.
Urticaceae	<i>Boehmeria tricuspis</i> (Hance) Makino
Polygonaceae	<i>Polygonum ciliinerve</i> (Nakai) Ohwi
	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> Sieb. et Zucc.
	<i>Polygonum multiflorum</i> Thunb.

	<i>Polygonum multiflorum</i> Thunb.
	<i>Pteroxygonum giraldii</i> Dammer et Diels
	<i>Rheum alexandrae</i> Batal.
	<i>Rheum hotaoense</i> C Y Cheng et T. C. Keo
	<i>Rheum likiangense</i> Sam.
	<i>Rheum nobile</i> Hook. f. et Thoms.
	<i>Rheum officinale</i> Baill.
	<i>Rheum palmatum</i> L.
	<i>Rheum palmatum</i> L. var. <i>tanguticum</i> Maxim. ex Regel
	<i>Rumex acetosa</i> L.
	<i>Rumex chalepensis</i> Mill.
	<i>Rumex dentatus</i> L.
	<i>Rumex gmelini</i> Turcz.
	<i>Rumex hastatus</i> D. Don
	<i>Rumex japonicus</i> Houtt.
	<i>Rumex nepalensis</i> Spreng.
	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> L.
	<i>Rumex patientia</i> L.
	<i>Rumex patientia</i> L. subsp. <i>tibeticus</i> (Reich. f.) Reich. f.
Berberidaceae	<i>Dysosma majorensis</i> (Gagnep.) Ying
	<i>Dysosma versipellis</i> (Hance) M. Cheng ex Ying
	<i>Dysosma pleiantha</i> (Hance) Woods.
	<i>Dysosma veitchii</i> (Hemsl. et Wils.) Fu ex Ying
Lardizabalaceae	<i>Sargentodoxa cuneata</i> (Oliv.) Rehd. et Wils.
Actinidiaceae	<i>Actinidia chinensis</i> Planch.
Leguminosae	<i>Abrus cantoniensis</i> Hance
	<i>Cassia angustifolia</i> Vahl.
	<i>Cassia acutifolia</i> Delile
	<i>Cassia nomame</i> (Sieb.) Kitag.
	<i>Cassia obtusifolia</i> L.
	<i>Cassia tora</i> L.
Rhamnaceae	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> L.
	<i>Rhamnus crenata</i> Sieb. et Zucc.
	<i>Rhamnus frangula</i> L.
	<i>Rhamnus napalensis</i> (Wall.) Laws.
	<i>Sageretia thea</i> (Osbeck) Johnst.
	<i>Ventilago leiocarpa</i> Benth.
Rubhceae	<i>Morinda officinalis</i> How.
	<i>Rubia cordifolia</i> L.
Asteraceae	<i>Saussurea laniceps</i> Hand.-Mazz.
	<i>Saussurea gnaphaloides</i> (Royle) Sch.-Bip.
	<i>Saussurea medusa</i> Maxim.
	<i>Saussurea tridactyla</i> Sch.-Bip. Ex Hook. f.
Pandanaceae	<i>Pandanus tectorius</i> Soland.
Orchidaceae	<i>Bletilla striata</i> (Thumb.) Reichb. f.

Table B. Chrysophanol-containing Plants

Family	Species
Taxaceae	<i>Amentotaxus argotaenia</i> (Hance) Pilger.
Polygonaceae	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> Sieb. et Zucc.
	<i>Polygonum multiflorum</i> Thunb.
	<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i> L.
	<i>Polygonum suffultum</i> Maxim.
	<i>Rheum alexandrae</i> Batal.
	<i>Rheum delavayi</i> Franch.
	<i>Rheum emodi</i> Wall.
	<i>Rheum franzenbachii</i> Munt.
	<i>Rheum hotaoense</i> C Y Cheng et T. C. Keo.
	<i>Rheum likiangense</i> Sam.
	<i>Rheum nobile</i> Hook. f. et Thoms.
	<i>Rheum officinale</i> Baill.
	<i>Rheum palmatum</i> L.
	<i>Rheum palmatum</i> L. var. <i>tanguticum</i> Maxim. ex Regel
	<i>Rumex acetosa</i> L.
	<i>Rumex acetosa</i> L.
	<i>Rumex chalepensis</i> Mill.
	<i>Rumex crispus</i> L.
	<i>Rumex dentatus</i> L.
	<i>Rumex gmelini</i> Turcz.
	<i>Rumex hastatus</i> D. Don
	<i>Rumex japonicus</i> Houtt.
	<i>Rumex nepalensis</i> Spreng.
<i>Rumex maritimus</i> L.	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> L.	
<i>Rumex patientia</i> L.	
<i>Rumex patientia</i> L. subsp. <i>tibeticus</i> (Reich. f.) Reich. f.	
Lardizabalaceae	<i>Sargentodoxa cuneata</i> (Oliv.) Rehd. et Wils.
Leguminosae	<i>Abrus cantoniensis</i> Hance.
	<i>Cassia angustifolia</i> Vahl.
	<i>Cassia acutifolia</i> Delile
	<i>Cassia mimosoides</i> L.
	<i>Cassia nomame</i> (Sieb.) Kitag.
	<i>Cassia obtusifolia</i> L.
	<i>Cassia tora</i> L.
<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> L.	
Simaroubaceae	<i>Brucea javanica</i> (L.) Merr.
Rhamnaceae	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> L.
	<i>Rhamnus crenata</i> Sieb. et Zucc.
	<i>Rhamnus davurica</i> Pall.
	<i>Rhamnus davurica</i> Pall.
	<i>Rhamnus frangula</i> L.
Umbelliferae	<i>Ligusticum chuanxiong</i> Hort.
Acanthaceae	<i>Baphicacanthus cusia</i> (Nees) Bremek.
Liliaceae	<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i> (L.) L.
	<i>Hemerocallis lilio-asphodelus</i> L.

Examples of a composition of the present invention include, but are not limited to, foods, food additives, nutritional supplements, and pharmaceutical preparations. It may be in the form of tablets, suspensions, implants, solutions, emulsions, capsules, powders, syrups, liquid compositions, ointments, lotions, creams, pastes, gels, or the like.

5 A dietary composition of this invention, either in a dry form or a solublized form, contains one or more of the anthracenedione compounds and an edible carrier. Additional nutrients, such as minerals or amino acids, may be included. A dietary composition can also be a drink or food product. Examples of a drink product include, but are not limited to, tea-based beverages, juice, coffee, and milk. Examples of a food
10 product include jelly, cookies, cereals, chocolates, snack bars, herbal extracts, dairy products (e.g., ice cream, and yogurt), soy bean product (e.g., tofu), and rice products.

A pharmaceutical composition for oral administration can be any orally acceptable dosage form including capsules, tablets, emulsions and aqueous suspensions, dispersions, and solutions. In the case of tablets, commonly used carriers include lactose
15 and corn starch. Lubricating agents, such as magnesium stearate, are also typically added. For oral administration in a capsule form, useful diluents include lactose and dried corn starch. When aqueous suspensions or emulsions are administered orally, the active ingredient can be suspended or dissolved in an oily phase combined with emulsifying or suspending agents. If desired, certain sweetening, flavoring, or coloring
20 agents can be added.

A composition of the present invention includes a carrier. Depending on the kind of the composition, a carrier may be a suitable dietary carrier or a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Examples of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier include, but are not limited to, biocompatible vehicles, adjuvants, additives, and diluents to achieve a
25 composition usable as a dosage form.

A “pharmaceutically acceptable carrier” refers to a carrier that, after administration to or upon a subject, does not cause undesirable physiological effects. The carrier in a pharmaceutical composition must be “acceptable” also in the sense that it is compatible with the active ingredient and, preferably, capable of stabilizing it. One or
30 more solubilizing agents can be utilized as pharmaceutical carriers for delivery of an

active anthracenedione compound. Examples of other carriers include colloidal silicon oxide, magnesium stearate, cellulose, sodium lauryl sulfate, and D&C Yellow # 10.

The above-described composition, in any of the forms described above, can be used for treating constipation. In fact, as shown in the examples below, the composition increased the production of feces and feces water content in a subject without causing side effects such as diarrhea. Also, it was effective in reducing or maintaining the body weight of the subject.

The term “treating” refers to administering an effective amount an anthracenedione compound to a subject that has a disorder, e.g., constipation, inflammatory bowel disease, or irritable bowel syndrome, or has a symptom of such a disorder, or has a predisposition toward such a disorder, with the purpose to cure, heal, alleviate, relieve, alter, remedy, ameliorate, improve, or affect the disorder, the symptoms of the disorder, or the predisposition toward the disorder. The term “administration” covers oral delivery to a subject a composition of the invention in any suitable form, e.g., food product, beverage, tablet, capsule, suspension, and solution. An “effective amount” refers to a dose of the composition that is sufficient to provide a physical benefit (e.g., increasing feces production and reducing the body weight) or a therapeutic benefit (e.g., lowering cholesterol levels). Both *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies can be conducted to determine optimal administration routes and doses. Increasing feces production refers to an increase in the wet weight of feces produced by a subject by 15% or more one day after the subject receives an active composition as determined by the method described in Example 3 below or any analogous method.

A composition of the present invention may be used alone or in combination with other biologically active ingredients. It may be administered to a subject in a single dose or multiple doses over a period of time, generally by oral administration. Various administration patterns will be apparent to those skilled in the art. The dosage ranges for the administration of the composition are those large enough to produce the desired effect. The dosage should not be so large as to cause any adverse side effects, such as unwanted cross-reactions and the like. Generally, the dosage will vary with the age, weight, sex, condition, and extent of a condition in a subject, and the intended purpose. The dosage can be determined by one of skill in the art without undue experimentation.

The dosage can be adjusted in the event of any counter indications, tolerance, or similar conditions. Those of skill in the art can readily evaluate such factors and, based on this information, determine the particular effective concentration of a composition of the present invention to be used for an intended purpose.

5 The specific examples below are to be construed as merely illustrative, and not limitative of the remainder of the disclosure in any way whatsoever. Without further elaboration, it is believed that one skilled in the art can, based on the description herein, utilize the present invention to its fullest extent.

10

Example 1:

Aloe-emodin, rhein, emodin, chrysophanol, and physcion were isolated from a *Rheum palmatum* Linne extract STD-05. To prepare STD05, 3.2 kg *Rheum palmatum* was extracted with 12 L of ethyl acetate for 18 hours twice. The resulting solution was filtered through a 200 mesh filter. The filtrate was concentrated under vacuum, dissolved in 2L of 95% ethanol, and precipitated with 6L of water. The precipitant was then dissolved in 95% ethanol and precipitated again with water to generate "Fr-I" precipitant. The supernatant was fractionated in a Diaion HP-20 column and eluted with 30% ethanol, followed by 95% ethanol and ethyl acetate. Elutes fractionated from 95% ethanol (Fr-D) and from ethyl acetate (Fr-E) were combined with Fr-I as STD05. Twenty grams of STD05 was dissolved in ethyl acetate and mixed with a small amount of silica gel. Ethyl acetate was then removed under vacuum to give a mixture. The mixture was purified on a silica gel column eluting with 0 % to 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes. Fractions thus obtained were analyzed by HPLC. Five compounds were detected by HPLC. Fractions of each compound were combined, respectively. The solvent of each combined solution was removed under vacuum to give five solid products. The solid products were recrystallized from acetone to give 220 mg of aloe-emodin, 290 mg of rhein, 1270 mg of emodin, 2220 mg of chrysophanol, and 790 mg of physcion. The results are summarized in Table 1 below:

30

Table 1. Compound Isolation

Compounds	Eluent Hexanes:Ethyl Acetate	Weight (mg)	Yield (%)	
			From the extract	From the herb
Aloe-emodin	20:1	220	1.10	0.012
Rhein	20:1	290	1.45	0.016
Emodin	40:1	1270	6.35	0.071
Chrysophanol	180:1	2220	11.10	0.125
Physcion	160:1	790	3.95	0.044

5 Each of the isolated compounds was crystallized and examined under a microscope.

Example 2:

10 The laxative activities by *Rheum palmatum* Linne extracts were studied. A crude *Rheum palmatum* Linne extract and STD05 were obtained from SunTen Phytotech Co., Ltd. (Jhonghe City, Taiwan). Commercial available laxatives, Through® (Chung Mei Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.; active ingredient: Sennosides 20 mg, as Sennosides A+B 12 mg, Lot. 009A 051) and Dulcolax® (Boehringer Ingelheim, Taiwan, Ltd.; active ingredient: Bisacodyl; Lot. 4804942) were obtained from a pharmacy.

15 Forty-two healthy male S.D. rats (8 weeks old; National Laboratory Animal Center, Taiwan) were divided into seven groups (six in each) and tested for the laxative activity by *Rheum palmatum* Linne extracts. The rats in one group were not fed with any extract or drug and used as negative controls. The rats in the second and third group were given Sennosides (3.55 mg/kg) and Bisacodyl (1.75 mg/kg), respectively, and used as
20 positive controls. The Rats in the other four groups were given *Rheum palmatum* Linne crude extract (500 mg/kg), filtered crude extract STD03 (180 mg/kg), and STD05 (STD05-1: 12 mg/kg and STD05-2: 24 mg/kg), respectively. All substances were administered orally everyday for three weeks.

25 The experiments were carried out under conditions in which temperature, humidity, and lighting were all controlled. Each rat was fed standard rat food and water

ad libitum in housing that provided a 12-hour light/dark cycle. The rats were divided into seven groups according to the body weights.

The first part of the experiment studied the effect of the above-mentioned extracts on feces production. During the three-week period, any rat that appeared dying was euthanized, dissected, and studied to check for any illness or injuries. Any complications or illness were analyzed by H&E stains to determine the cause of death and to allow for dosage reconsiderations for future experiments.

During this period, the body weights of the rats were weighed each day and recorded. Feces of each rat were studied three times during the period for any unusual observations. Specifically, the amounts of feces were weighed on Days 11, 15, 18, and 21. During observation, each rat was placed in a metabolic cage. Feces were collected every twenty-four hours. The number of collected feces pellets was counted, and the pellets' shapes and colors were evaluated. After weighing the moist feces, they were dried in an oven at 100°C for twenty-four hours. The water content from the feces was calculated according to the following formula:

$$\text{Water content percentage} = [(wet\ weight - dry\ weight) / wet\ weight] \times 100\%. \quad (I)$$

The results are summarized in Table 2 below:

Table 2. Effects of *Rheum palmatum* Linne extracts on feces production

		Control	<i>Rheum palmatum</i>	Bisacodyl	Sennosides	STD03	STD05-1	STD05-2
Day 11	Wet Weight (g)	21.66	39.46	33.84	29.21	27.60	22.79	22.59
	Pellet count	87	178	116	121	126	105	116
	Water content (%)	48.82	56.92	64.45	52.70	53.35	50.19	42.07
Day 15	Wet Weight (g)	16.86	28.50	41.64	30.95	36.86	27.34	29.09
	Pellet count	84	139	110	119	153	130	124
	Water content (%)	42.89	49.53	68.34	60.40	57.19	47.57	48.83
Day 18	Wet Weight (g)	22.14	24.98	30.14	23.90	25.01	24.51	29.48
	Pellet count	90	126	81	106	124	114	123
	Water content (%)	43.83	48.36	66.65	47.30	49.40	47.63	50.19
Day 21	Wet Weight (g)	22.79	36.52	40.13	27.80	24.18	24.51	27.17
	Pellet count	91	105.6	108	123	115	97	108
	Water content (%)	47.85	63.89	68.02	44.73	47.56	51.10	43.54

After the above-discussed feces tests, intestinal motility tests were conducted. Before the experiment, the rats were fasted for at least sixteen hours. The rats were then

given the aforementioned drugs or extracts. After 3 hours, each rat was given 3 ml/kg of 0.5% methylcellulose solution-0.5% Evans blue dye. Each rat was sacrificed 30 minutes later and its abdominal cavity was cut open. The entire small intestine was extracted and carefully straightened. The entire stretch between the pylorus and cecum was measured as the small intestine length. The distance traveled by Evans blue dye along the intestines was also measured. During dissection, any unusual observations were recorded and photographed. The intestinal motility function was calculated in the following formula:

$$\text{Intestine motility} = (\text{Evans blue dye length}/\text{small intestine length}) \times 100\%. \text{ (II)}$$

The results are summarized in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Effects of *Rheum palmatum* Linne extracts on intestine motility.

STD03			STD05-1			STD05-2		
Small intestine length (cm)	Dye length (cm)	Intestinal motility (%)	Small intestine length (cm)	Dye length (cm)	Intestinal motility (%)	Small intestine length (cm)	Dye length (cm)	Intestinal motility (%)
105	83.5	79.5	101	77.5	76.7	117	83.5	71.4
118.5	75	63.3	102.5	72.5	70.7	114	89	78.1
111	80.5	72.5	113.5	105	92.5	112	99.5	88.8
110	79	71.8	107	70	65.4	107	89	83.2
120	87	72.5	110	86	78.2	101	86	85.1
			108	77.5	71.8	118.5	81	68.4
	Mean	71.9		Mean	75.9		Mean	79.2
	SD	5.8		SD	9.3		SD	8.1

Intestine motility data were expressed as mean \pm SD. Data were analyzed using the one-way ANOVA method. For comparison within the groups, a Post hoc Comparison was applied. In both feces production and intestine motility analyses, $p < 0.05$ indicates significant differences. For the feces production tests, the data for each group and each time point represent the total wet weight or pellet count of the six rats in the group.

Example 3:

The aforementioned STD05 and compounds were studied for the laxative activity. Healthy male S.D. rats (BioLASCO Taiwan Co. Ltd.) were divided into three groups (i.e., Groups 1-3) in this study.

In Group I, 6 rats, as negative control, were given no treatment; 6 rats, as positive control, were given 3.35mg/kg/day Sennosides (Through®, Chung Mei Pharmaceutical

Co., Ltd.; Active ingredient: Sennosides 20 mg, as sennoside A+B 12 mg, Lot. 012F 006); 6 rats were treated STD05 (8 mg/kg/day); 6 rats were treated with an extract fraction containing aloe-emodin, rhein, and emodin (“ARE”, 8 mg/kg/day); 6 rats were treated with Aloe-emodin (4 mg/kg/day); and 6 rats were treated with Rhein
5 (4 mg/kg/day).

In Group II, 6 rats, as negative control, were given no treatment; 6 rats, as positive control, were given 3.35mg/kg/day Sennosides; 6 rats were treated STD05 (24 mg/kg/day); 6 rats were treated with an extract fraction containing ARE (24 mg/kg/day); 6 rats were treated with Chrysophanol (4 mg/kg/day); and 6 rats were treated
10 with Emodin (4 mg/kg/day).

In Group III, 6 rats, as negative control, were given no treatment; 6 rats were treated with Physcion (4 mg/kg/day); and 6 rats were treated with a mixture of chrysophanol and physcion (8 mg/kg/day, “CP”).

The experiments were carried out under controlled temperature, humidity, and
15 lighting. Each rat was fed standard rat food and water *ad libitum* in housing that provided a 12-hour light/dark cycle. For statistical comparison, all of the rats were divided into six sets according to the body weights.

The first part of the experiment studied the effect of the test substances on feces production. During the 10-day period, the body weights of the rats were weighed each
20 day and recorded. The rat’s feces was also studied three times in the manner described above during the 10-day period for any unusual observations. During the 10-day period, any rat that appeared dying was euthanized, dissected, and examined for any illness or injury. Any complications or illness were analyzed by H&E stains to determine the cause of death and to allow for dosage reconsiderations for future experiments. Summarized in
25 Table 4 below are the effects of the compounds, mixtures, or extracts on the rat body weights.

Table 4. Effects of compounds and *Rheum palmatum* Linne extracts on body weight

Group I			Group II			Group III		
Control			Control			Control		
Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference
280	335	55	355	400	45	415	450	35
285	345	60	365	405	40	430	460	30

	290	355	65	365	410	45	435	470	35
	275	330	55	345	385	40	405	440	35
	285	345	60	360	410	50	425	460	35
	295	355	60	380	435	55	450	475	25
Mean	285	344	59	362	408	46	427	459	33
SD	7	10	4	12	16	6	16	13	4
	Sennosides			Sennosides					
	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference
	280	325	45	340	370	30			
	285	330	45	350	395	45			
	290	350	60	365	405	40			
	275	310	35	325	360	35			
	285	350	65	370	410	40			
	295	365	70	390	445	55			
Mean	285	338	53	357	398	41			
SD	8	20	14	23	30	9			
	STD05(8 mg/kg)			STD05 (24 mg/kg)					
	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference
	275	330	55	345	380	35			
	285	345	60	355	385	30			
	290	350	55	360	395	35			
	275	335	60						
	285	345	60						
	295	355	65	375	395	20			
Mean	285	343	59	359	389	30			
SD	7	15	4	13	8	7			
	ARE (8 mg/kg)			ARE (24 mg/kg)					
	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference
	270	325	55	335	370	35			
	285	345	60	360	405	45			
	295	350	55	370	405	35			
	280	325	45	335	370	35			
	285	345	60	355	395	40			
	290	365	75	375	435	60			
Mean	284	343	58	355	397	42			
SD	9	15	10	17	25	10			
	Aloe-emodin (4 mg/kg)			Chrysophanol (4 mg/kg)			Physcion (4 mg/kg)		
	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference
	270	315	45	330	370	40	385	410	25
	285	335	50	350	370	20	400	430	30
	295	345	50	355	385	30	405	450	45
	275	315	40	325	350	25	365	385	20
	285	325	40	340	370	30	385	415	30
	290	345	55	360	410	50	430	460	30
Mean	283	330	58	343	376	33	395	425	30
SD	9	14	10	14	20	11	22	28	8
	Rhein (4 mg/kg)			Emodin (4 mg/kg)			CP (8 mg/kg)		
	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference	Start Day 1	End Day 10	Difference
	275	330	55	340	370	30	390	415	25
	280	330	50	345	380	35	395	420	25
	285	340	55	360	405	45	430	455	25
	275	310	35	330	340	10	360	385	25
	280	335	55	350	385	35	405	435	30
	285	340	55	360	395	35	405	440	35
Mean	280	331	51	348	379	32	398	425	28
SD	4	11	8	12	23	12	23	24	4

As shown in Table 4, STD05 and the compounds are effective in maintaining the body weight. It was unexpected that pure form of each compound was also effective.

During the period, feces produced by the rats were studied days 1, 5, and 10 in the same manner described above. It was found that STD05 promoted feces production. In the 10-day period, the rats administered with STD05 produced more feces (wet weight) that the rats in the control group by about 32%. In addition, the pellet counts for the rats administered with STD05 were greater than those for the control rats by about 20%. Furthermore, STD05 increased the water content in feces by about 18%. The same experiments were conducted on rats administered with physcion, aloe-emodin, chrysophanol, rhein, emodin, CP, and ARE. The results are summarized in Table 5 below:

10

Table 5 Effects of compounds and extracts on feces production

Group I		Control	Sennosides (3.35 mg/kg)	STD05 (8 mg/kg)	ARE (8 mg/kg)	Aloe-emodin (4 mg/kg)	Rhein (4 mg/kg)
Day 1	Wet Weight (g)	13.42	18.72	14.06	9.43	17.00	17.57
	Pellet count	85	101	79	63	98	102
	Water content (%)	32.59	45.69	39.73	32.54	42.48	42.58
Day 5	Wet Weight (g)	18.48	26.16	27.76	18.53	20.21	16.88
	Pellet count	90	119	119	82	104	89
	Water content (%)	39.83	48.68	48.44	47.35	41.98	44.55
Day 10	Wet Weight (g)	24.15	36.38	33.83	19.87	28.86	23.52
	Pellet count	93	146	125	89	125	119
	Water content (%)	49.11	57.4	54.55	48.36	50.48	46.53
Group II		Control	Sennosides (3.35 mg/kg)	STD05 (24 mg/kg)	ARE (24 mg/kg)	Chrysophanol (24 mg/kg)	Emodin (4 mg/kg)
Day 1	Wet Weight (g)	24.15	36.19	37.27	17.62	28.86	16.86
	Pellet count	99	134	125	67	128	90
	Water content (%)	51.11	61.09	60.65	50.21	50.82	42.38
Day 5	Wet Weight (g)	22.85	36.42	27.28	18.60	26.48	25.51
	Pellet count	94	118	109	79	119	112
	Water content (%)	49.70	61.53	55.47	50.73	51.22	51.00
Day 10	Wet Weight (g)	25.29	36.21	31.07	25.66	28.83	26.21
	Pellet count	84	132	101	107	127	106
	Water content (%)	48.64	53.99	62.19	53.35	56.52	53.64
Group III		Control	Physcion (4mg/kg)	CP (8 mg/kg)			
Day 1	Wet Weight (g)	18.32	35.38	28.74			
	Pellet count	65	134	115			
	Water content (%)	49.51	55.73	52.82			

Day 5	Wet Weight (g)	22.41	35.17	31.26
	Pellet count	78	128	112
	Water content (%)	50.93	53.80	56.36
Day 10	Wet Weight (g)	22.37	29.43	26.37
	Pellet count	91	121	106
	Water content (%)	47.09	47.66	50.93

As shown in Table 5, during the 10-day period, except ARE, all compounds promoted feces production in the order of physcion > CP > aloe-emodin > chrysophanol > rhein > emodin (from the most potent to the least potent). For example, physcion, CP, aloe-emodin, chrysophanol, rhein, and emodin increased the feces amount (wet weight) by 93%, 57%, 27%, 19%, 31%, and -30%, respectively, at Day 1; by 57%, 39%, 9%, 16%, -9%, and 12%, respectively, at Day 5; and by 32%, 18%, 20%, 14%, -1%, and 4%, respectively, at Day 10. The averages are 61%, 38%, 19%, 16%, 7%, and -5%, respectively.

After finishing the feces tests, intestinal motility tests were conducted in the same manner described above. During dissection, any unusual observations were recorded and photographed. For comparison within the groups, a Post hoc Comparison was applied with $p < 0.05$ indicating significant differences. It was found that the rat received STD05 (containing Physcion and Chrysophanol) and Sennosides had greater intestinal motility (69.3% and 67.9%) than the control rats (61.1%).

Example 4:

STD05 was tested in Guinea pig ileum electrical stimulation increase tissue assay at test concentrations ranging from 10 nm to 10 μ M by MDS Pharma Services. The assay was conducted according to the method described in Moritoki, et al., "Effects of methylxanthines and imidazole on the contraction of guinea pig ileum induced by transmural simulation" Eur. J. Pharmacol. 35, 185-198.

The results show that STD05 increased neurogenic twitch by 36% at the concentrations of 0.03 and 0.3 μ M and caused reduction in the post-treatment basal twitch response of -24% at the concentration of 10 μ M.

Example 5:

STD05 was evaluated for possible hypocholesterolemic activity in hamsters fed with a high cholesterol diet. STD05 at 30 and 100 mg/kg was administered orally once a day for 14 consecutive days. Blood was drawn from overnight fasted hamsters on day 1 (pre-treatment), day 8 (7 days post dosing), and day 15 (14 days post dosing) to measure serum total cholesterol, high density lipoprotein, low density lipoprotein and triglyceride levels. Post-treatment values on day 8 and day 15 were expressed in percentage of respective pretreatment values (day) in order to assess lipid-lowering effect of the tested composition. Decrease of 20% or more in total cholesterol or low density lipoprotein or increase of 20% or more in high density lipoprotein as well as decrease of 40% or more in triglyceride relative to the vehicle group were considered significant. Also one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnet's test was applied for statistical comparison between the vehicle and treated groups.

The results show that STD05 at the concentration of 100mg/kg had significant low-density lipoprotein lowering effect. The effect became evident after the two week treatment.

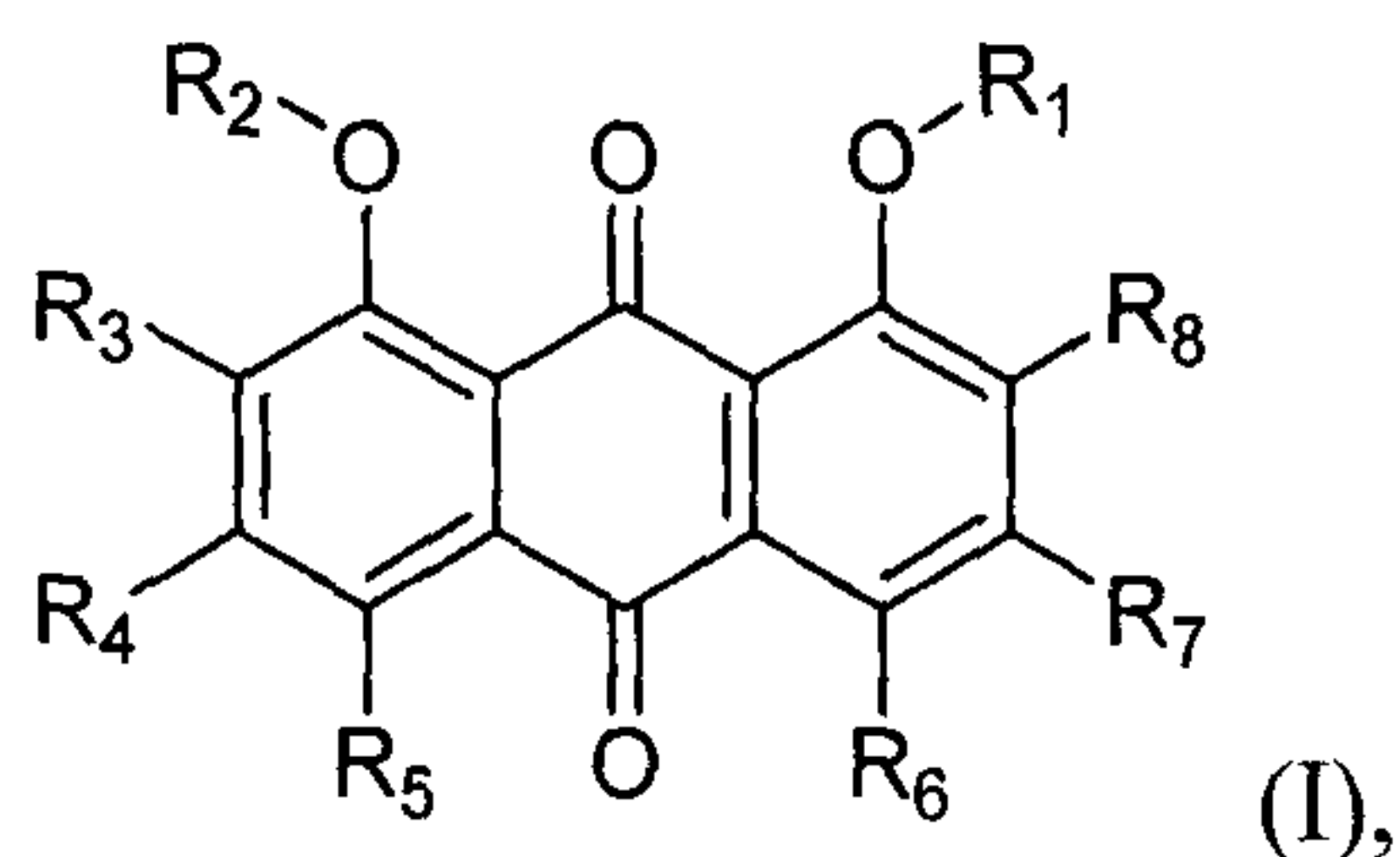
OTHER EMBODIMENTS

All of the features disclosed in this specification may be combined in any combination. Each feature disclosed in this specification may be replaced by an alternative feature serving the same, equivalent, or similar purpose. Thus, unless expressly stated otherwise, each feature disclosed is only an example of a generic series of equivalent or similar features.

From the above description, one skilled in the art can easily ascertain the essential characteristics of the present invention, and without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, can make various changes and modifications of the invention to adapt it to various usages and conditions. Thus, other embodiments are also within the scope of the following claims.

Claims

1. A composition for treating inflammatory bowel disease or irritable bowel syndrome in a subject, comprising a carrier and an effective amount of a purified compound of formula (I):



wherein

each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₅, R₆ and R₈ is independently H or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

R₄ is C₁-C₆ alkyl; and

R₇ is H or O(C₁-C₁₀)alkyl.

2. The composition of Claim 1, which is for treating inflammatory bowel disease.

3. The composition according to Claim 1, which is for treating irritable bowel syndrome.

4. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₅, R₆, and R₈ is H.

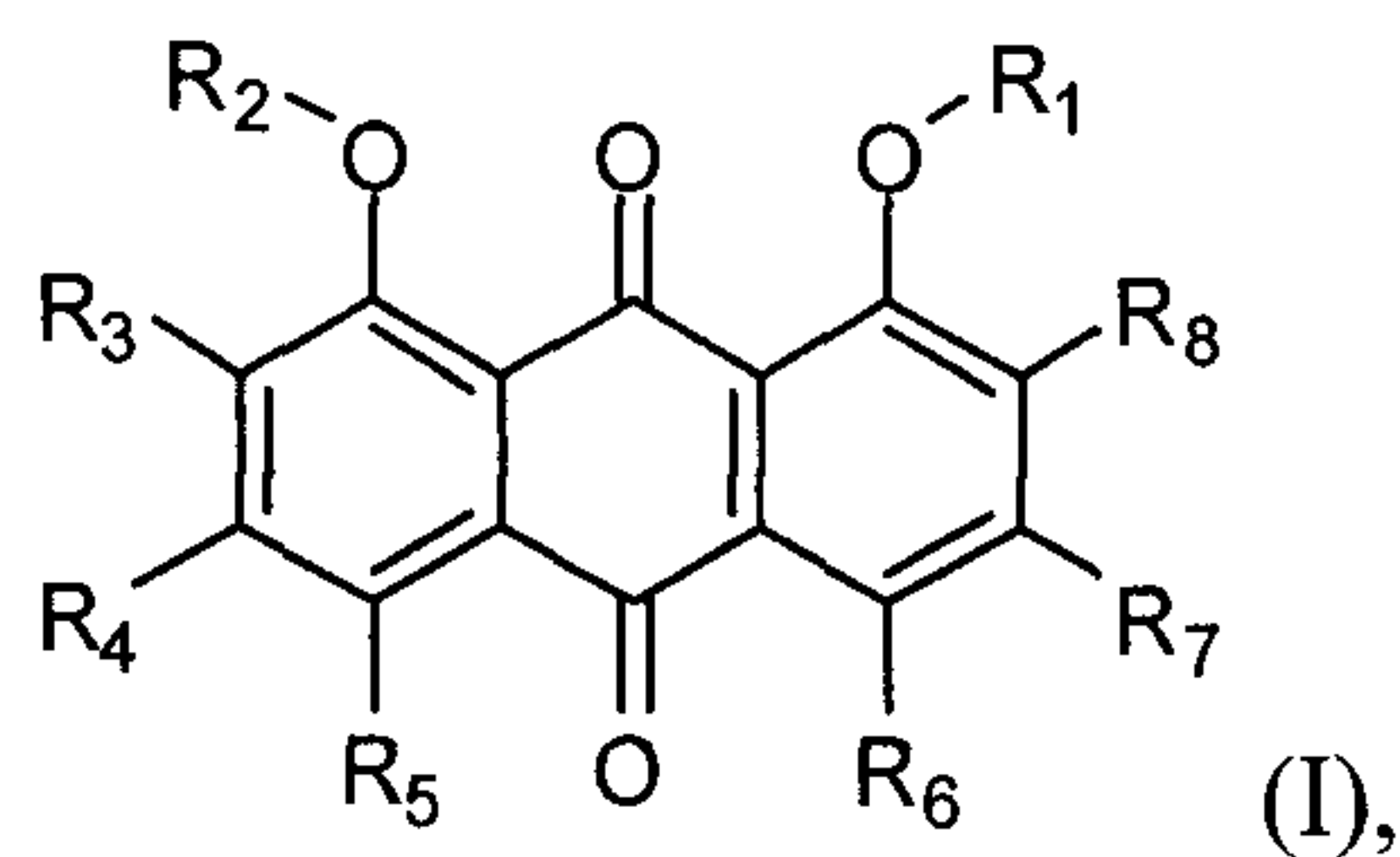
5. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein R₄ is C₁-C₆ alkyl and R₇ is H.

6. The composition according to Claim 5, wherein said compound is chrysophanol.

7. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein R₄ is C₁-C₆ alkyl and R₇ is O(C₁-C₁₀)alkyl.

8. The composition according to Claim 7, wherein said compound is physcion.
9. The composition according to Claim 1, which is in a form of a pharmaceutical composition.
10. The composition according to Claim 9, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
11. The composition according to Claim 10, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is an enteric carrier.
12. The composition according to Claim 1, which is in a form of a dietary composition.
13. The composition according to Claim 2, wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_5 , R_6 , and R_8 is H.
14. The composition according to Claim 13, wherein said compound is chrysophanol.
15. The composition according to Claim 13, wherein said compound is physcion.
16. The composition according to Claim 2, which is in a form of a pharmaceutical composition.
17. The composition according to Claim 16, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. The composition according to Claim 17, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is an enteric carrier.
19. The composition according to Claim 2, which is in a form of a dietary composition.
20. The composition according to Claim 3, wherein each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₅, R₆, and R₈ is H.
21. The composition according to Claim 20, wherein said compound is chrysophanol.
22. The composition according to Claim 20, wherein said compound is physcion.
23. The composition according to Claim 3, which is in a form of a pharmaceutical composition.
24. The composition according to Claim 23, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
25. The composition according to Claim 24, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is an enteric carrier.
26. The composition according to Claim 3, which is in a form of a dietary composition.
27. A composition for treating constipation in a subject, comprising a carrier and an effective amount of a purified compound of formula (I):



wherein

each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₅, R₆ and R₈ is independently H or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

R₄ is C₁-C₆ alkyl; and

and R₇ is H or O(C₁-C₁₀)alkyl.

28. The composition according to Claim 27, wherein each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₅, R₆, and R₈ is H.

29. The composition according to Claim 28, wherein said compound is chrysophanol.

30. The composition according to Claim 28, wherein said compound is physcion.

31. The composition according to any one of Claims 27-30, which is in a form of a pharmaceutical composition.

32. The composition according to Claim 31, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33. The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is an enteric carrier.

34. The composition according to any one of Claims 27-30, which is in a form of a dietary composition.

