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te 's-Hertogenbosch.**

(54) **Device for rearing chicks.**

(57) The present invention relates to a device for rearing chicks, comprising: a housing, for the protection of the chicks, a water supply, at least partially within the housing, to supply water to: a water dispenser, for instance a tube provided with nipples; a feed supply, at least partially within the housing, to supply feed to: a feed dispenser, for instance formed by a feeding pan; wherein the water supply and the feed supply are adjustable in height, relative to a ground surface under the housing, as well as to a system for rearing chicks, comprising a device according to the invention and a water source, to supply water to the water supply and a feed source, to supply feed to the feed supply.

NL C 2012178

Dit octrooi is verleend ongeacht het bijgevoegde resultaat van het onderzoek naar de stand van de techniek en schriftelijke opinie. Het octrooischrift komt overeen met de oorspronkelijk ingediende stukken.

Device for rearing chicks

The present invention relates to a device for rearing chicks, a housing for such device as well as a system for rearing chicks.

5

During rearing of chicks up to about 3 weeks of age, it is important to control the climate conditions at which the chicks are housed. Chicks should be provided with a protection against the elements, as well as with food and water, which can be adapted to the size of the growing chicks.

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Present systems for rearing chicks, such as BE 332541 or DE 20106516, do provide protection in the form of a dome-like structure, but do not provide food or water for the chicks and are not configured to be adapted to the changing size of the growing chicks.

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It is therefor a goal of the present invention to overcome the above listed drawbacks, to provide a device which protects and feeds chicks and can be adapted to accommodate growing chicks.

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The invention thereto proposes a device for rearing chicks, comprising: a housing, for the protection of the chicks, a water supply, at least partially within the housing, to supply water to: a water dispenser, for instance a tube provided with nipples; a feed supply, at least partially within the housing, to supply feed to: a feed dispenser, for instance formed by a a feeding pan, tubes with augers, flexaugers and/or throughs with feed chains; wherein the water supply and the feed supply are adjustable, in particular individually, in height, relative to a ground surface under the housing.

25

The invention therewith provides a complete device, which is able to protect the chicks against the elements with the housing, as well as to feed the chicks with water and feed within the housing. The housing is for instance a dome- or tent-shaped structure which provides protection for the chicks from above, as well as from the sides.

30

When the chicks mature, it is favourable that the height of the feed supply and the water supply are adjusted to the size of the chicks. Thereto, the water supply and the feed supply are adjustable, in particular individually, in height, relative to a ground surface

of the housing. This allows the device to adapt to the size of the chicks. The change in height can be achieved in several ways. The supplies could for instance be suspended from above with changeable wires, or could be supported from the ground with supports with variable height, and could also be attached to the housing with a fitting which
 5 allows changes in height.

The device may be placed on top of the ground itself, and could also be placed on top of a slatted floor to keep the chicks off the ground. The slatted floor may also be formed by movable slats on a support slide, such that the slats on which the chicks live can be
 10 moved in and out the device, for instance to clean them.

The feed supply is adjustable between a height ranging at least between 10 and 50 cm (relative to ground level), preferably between 18 and 40 cm, in particular between 22 and 36 cm.
 15

The water supply is adjustable in height ranging at least between 10 and 50 cm (relative to ground level), preferably between 15 and 45 cm, in particular between 18 and 40 cm.

The feed supply and the water supply are preferably arranged such that they form an automated system, in which the chicks can be nourished automatically. The supplies can
 20 for instance be coupled to a large source in order to get enough of feed and water to the housing. In this way the chicks can be reared without extensive human intervention.

The housing may also be adjustable in height relative to the ground surface. While the
 25 chicks grow, they require more space. Also, during the maturation of the chicks, they require less protection from the elements. By raising the housing relative to the ground, the housing may still function as a shelter against for instance rain and snow, but no longer provides the chicks with a totally controlled microclimate underneath the housing.

30 Even when the housing is raised to a level where it only provides shelter against rain and snow, the feed and water supply should still be available for the growing chicks. The housing does not limit the movement of the chicks here, and a central sheltered place for feed and water is provided.

In order to have the housing, the water supply and the feed supply to be mutually adjustable in height, the housing could be provided with slots, through which the feed supply and the water supply may extend, wherein the slots are, in vertical direction, larger compared to feed or water supply. The feed supply and the water supply may extend from outside the housing to inside the housing through those slots. The slots are, for example, elongated slots in vertical direction. When, for instance, the feed and water supply are adjusted in height, the slots in the housing allow them to move with respect to the housing, without damaging or moving the housing itself. The slots can be adjusted such that they allow the feed or water supply to move in vertical direction over a distance of at least 5 cm, preferably 10 cm, preferably between 18 and 40 cm relative to ground level.

The water dispenser can for instance be formed by a tube extending through the housing which is provided with nipples. The feed dispenser may be formed by a feeding pan, tubes with augers, flexaugers and/or throughs with feed chains

The housing may be provided with at least two side walls, which extend in a substantially vertical plane, and wherein the slots are present in these side walls. Substantially vertical side walls allow multiple devices or housings to be placed next to each other and are easy to produce.

The housing may also comprise opening in a side of the housing, in order to let chicks enter or leave the housing at will.

The housing may be provided with an air system to refresh the air inside the housing. The air system may comprise at least one air tube to supply (fresh) air to the inside of the housing.

The air tube could be integrated in the housing such that it provides structural integrity to the housing. It could for instance connect two sides of a tent-shaped housing and act as a support beam. In that case, in a cross section of the housing, at least two sections of housing are present, which are connected by at least one air tube.

The at least one air tube may also be formed integrally with the housing when the housing is produced. The at least one air tube which supplies (fresh) air to the housing may also be perforated in order to release air from inside the tube to the housing.

- 5 The air system of the housing may also at least one air tube to remove (used) air from the inside of the housing. This way the quality of the air inside the housing can be changed by refreshing the used air with fresh air.

- 10 The air system may be adapted such that more fresh air is supplied to the housing compared to the amount of air that is removed from the housing. In this way the housing is continuously supplied with fresh air. The air system could thereto be arranged to maintain a higher pressure inside the housing compared to the pressure outside the housing.

- 15 The air system may also be provided with a heater, in order to heat the air that is supplied to the housing. The air that is supplied to the chick in the housing can therefor be conditioned such that suits the needs of the chicks.

- 20 The device according to the invention may also comprise a carrier, for carrying the housing, the water supply and the feed supply. The housing, water supply and feed supply could for instance be suspended from the carrier by wires. Such a carrier allows great mobility of the device, because the complete device could be placed or transported by moving the carrier.

- 25 When the feed supply, the housing and the water supply are suspended by wires, they can be adjustable in height by a set of winches. By using winches, the length of wire that suspends the housing, the feed supply or the water supply may be changed, and thereby changing the height of these features.

- 30 The device may also be provided with a heater, within the housing, in order to heat the chicks in the housing.

The device according to the invention may also be arranged to be coupled to a similar device. Thereto the water supply and the feed supply of each device are arranged to be

coupled to the water supply and the feed supply of the other device. In case an air system is present in the device, also the air tubes of each device are arranged to be coupled to the corresponding air tubes of the other device.

- 5 The invention also relates to a housing, apparently for use in the device according to the invention.

The invention also relates to a system for rearing chicks, comprising a device according to the invention, as well as a water source, to supply water to the water supply and a
10 feed source, in order to supply feed to the feed supply.

The invention will now be elucidated into more detail with reference to the following figures, wherein

- figure 1 schematically shows a device according to the invention;
- 15 - figure 2 schematically shows a device according to the invention, provided with an air system;
- figure 3 shows schematically the coupling of the devices according to the invention;
- figure 4 shows schematically suspension of the housing, water and feed supply
20 according to the invention; and
- figure 5 schematically shows two coupled devices according to the invention

Figure 1 shows a device (1) for rearing chicks, comprising a housing (2), for the protection of the chicks, a water dispenser (3), within the housing (2); a water supply
25 (4), partially within the housing (2), to supply water to the water dispenser (3). The device (1) further comprises feed dispenser (5), within the housing (2) and a feed supply (6), at least partially within the housing (2), to supply feed to the feed dispenser (5). The water supply (4) and the feed supply (6) are adjustable in height, relative to a ground surface (A) under the housing (2).

30

Figure 1 further shows that the housing (2) is provided with slots (7), through which the feed supply (6) and the water supply extend (4), wherein the slots (7) are, in vertical direction, larger compared to feed (6) or water supply (4). This allows them to be adjusted in height.

Figure 2 shows the device (1) according to figure 1, provided with an air system comprising two air tubes (8, 9). The two air tubes (8, 9) can both be arranged to feed air into the housing (2). It is also possible to have one tube (8) to supply air to the housing
 5 (2), and the other tube (9) to remove air from the housing (2).

Figure 3 shows a device (1) according to figure 1 or 2, coupled to another similar device (11). The water supply (4), the feed supply (6) and the air tubes (8,9) are coupled to a water supply (14), a feed supply (6) and air tubes (18, 19) of the other device (11).
 10 Thereto connector pieces can be used, for instance a water supply connector (20), a feed supply connector (21) and air tube connectors (22, 23).

Figure 4 shows a device (1) according to figure 1 or 2, comprising a carrier (31), for carrying the housing (2), the water supply (4) and the feed supply (6). The housing (2),
 15 the water supply (4) and the feed supply (6) are suspended from the carrier (31) by wiring (32). The device (1) also comprises three winches (33, 34, 35) that are able to wind up the wiring (32) attaches to each winch (33, 34, 35). By winding up, or by winding down they are able to change the height at which the housing (2), the water supply (4) and the feed supply (6) are suspended, relative to the ground surface (A).

20

Figure 5 shows an embodiment of the invention provided with multiple optional features wherein two devices (1, 11) are coupled. Each device (1, 11) comprises a housing (2, 12), water dispensers (3, 13), water supplies (4, 14), feed dispensers (5, 15) and feed supplies (not shown). Figure 5 also shows the air system comprising three air
 25 tubes (8, 8', 9, 18, 18', 19), two tubes (8, 8', 18', 18) for fresh air (A) and one (9, 19) for a return air flow (B).

Figure 5 also shows integrated lighting (36) to illuminate the chicks and exit curtains (37) through which the chicks can leave the devices (1, 11). The devices (1, 11) rest on
 30 top of a surface which is at least partially formed by movable slats (38), which can be moved (C) through the devices (1, 11).

Conclusies

1. Inrichting voor het grootbrengen van kuikens, omvattende:
 - a) een behuizing, voor het beschermen van de kuikens,
 - 5 b) een watertoevoer, welke zich ten minste gedeeltelijk binnen de behuizing bevindt, voor het toevoeren van water naar een waterdispenser;
 - c) een voertoevoer, welke zich ten minste gedeeltelijk binnen de behuizing bevindt, voor het toevoeren van voer naar een voerdispenser;
 - 10 d) waarbij de watertoevoer en de voertoevoer, in het bijzonder individueel, in hoogte aanpasbaar zijn, ten opzichte van een grondoppervlak onder de behuizing.

2. Inrichting volgens conclusie 1, waarbij de behuizing aanpasbaar is in hoogte, ten opzichte van het grondoppervlak onder de behuizing.
- 15
3. Inrichting volgens elk van de voorgaande conclusies, waarbij de behuizing is voorzien van ten minste twee sleuven, waardoor de voertoevoer en de watertoevoer zich uitstrekken, waarbij de sleuven in verticale richting groter zijn in vergelijking met de voer- of watertoevoer.
- 20
4. Inrichting volgens conclusie 3, waarbij de sleuven zodanig zijn gedimensioneerd dat ze toelaten dat de voer- of watertoevoer zich in verticale richting over een afstand van ten minste 5 cm kan bewegen.

- 25 5. Inrichting volgens conclusie 3 of 4, waarbij de behuizing ten minste twee zijwanden omvat, welke zich in hoofdzaak in een verticaal vlak uitstrekken, en waarbij de sleuven zich in deze zijwanden bevinden.

6. Inrichting volgens elk van de voorgaande conclusies, waarbij de behuizing ten minste
- 30 één opening in een wand van de behuizing omvat, om de kuikens in en uit de behuizing te laten.

7. Inrichting volgens elk van de voorgaande conclusies, waarbij de behuizing is voorzien van een luchtsysteem om de lucht binnen de behuizing te verversen.

8. Inrichting volgens conclusie 7, waarbij het luchtsysteem ten minste één luchtbuis omvat om lucht toe te voeren aan de binnenkant van de behuizing.
9. Inrichting volgens conclusie 7 of 8, waarbij het luchtsysteem is geïntegreerd in de
5 behuizing zodat het structurele integriteit geeft aan de behuizing.
10. Inrichting volgens conclusie 7, waarbij een dwarsdoorsnede van de inrichting ten minste twee secties behuizing omvat, welke door ten minste één luchtbuis zijn verbonden.
10
11. Inrichting volgens elk van conclusies 7-10, waarbij de luchtbuis is geperforeerd om lucht van binnenin de luchtbuis af te geven aan de binnenkant van de behuizing.
12. Inrichting volgens elk van conclusies 7-11, waarbij het luchtsysteem ten minste één
15 luchtbuis omvat om lucht af te voeren vanuit de binnenkant van de behuizing.
13. Inrichting volgens conclusie 12, waarbij het luchtsysteem is ingericht om meer lucht toe voeren aan de behuizing in vergelijking met de hoeveelheid lucht die uit de behuizing wordt afgevoerd.
20
14. Inrichting volgens elk van conclusies 7-13, waarbij het luchtsysteem is ingericht om een hogere druk binnenin de behuizing te handhaven in vergelijking met de druk buiten de behuizing.
- 25 15. Inrichting volgens elk van conclusies 7-14, waarbij het luchtsysteem een verwarming omvat, om de lucht die wordt toegevoerd aan de behuizing te verwarmen.
16. Inrichting volgens elk van de voorgaande conclusies, omvattende een drager, voor het dragen van de behuizing, de watertoevoer en de voertoevoer.
30
17. Inrichting volgens conclusie 16, waarbij de behuizing, de watertoevoer en de voertoevoer door middel van bedrading aan de drager hangen.

18. Inrichting volgens conclusie 17, omvattende ten minste twee lieren, om de hoogte waarop de behuizing, de watertoevoer en/of de voertoevoer hangen te veranderen.

5 19. Inrichting volgens elk van de voorgaande conclusies, waarbij ten minste de watertoevoer en de voertoevoer zijn ingericht om te worden gekoppeld aan een watertoevoer en een voertoevoer van een andere inrichting.

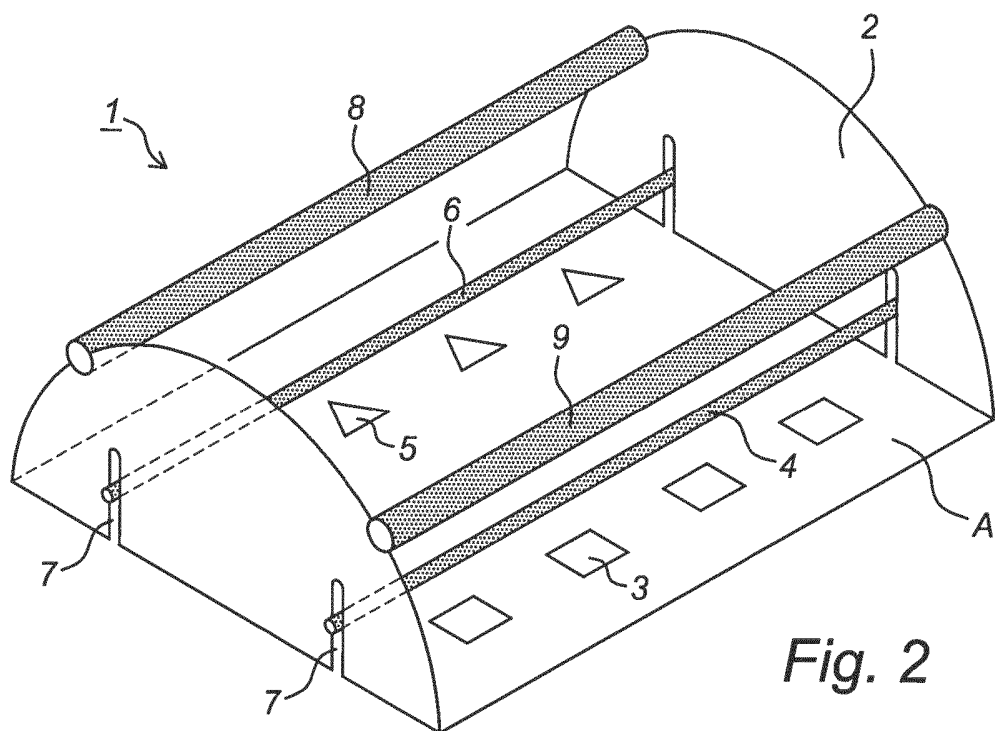
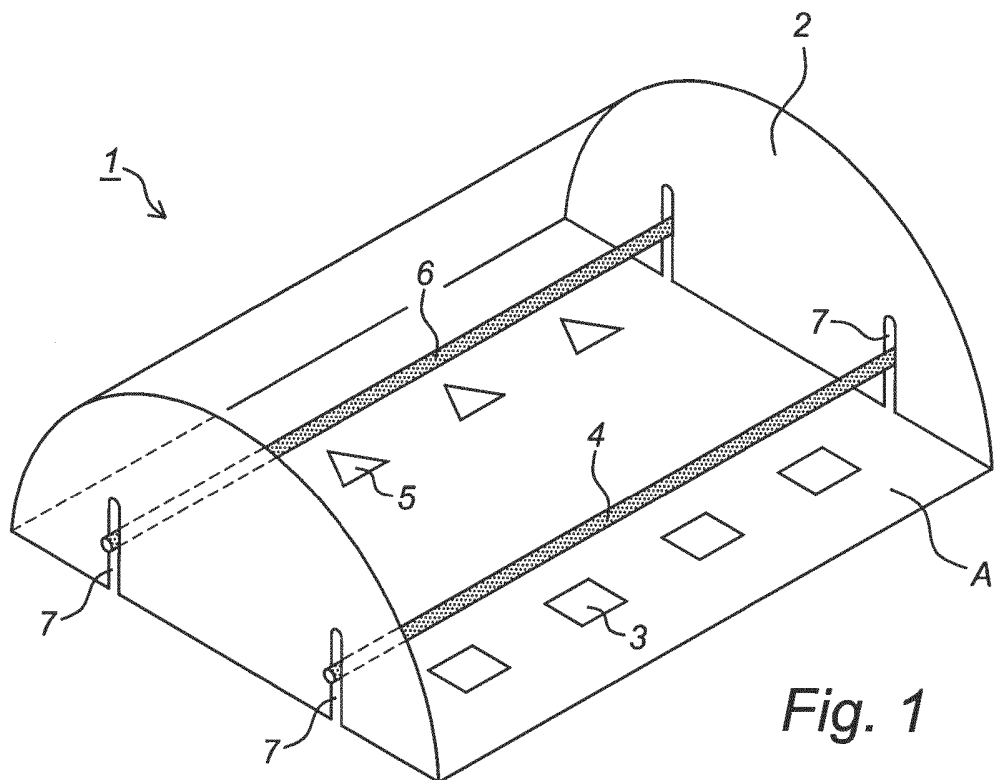
10 20. Behuizing, kennelijk voor gebruik in een inrichting volgens elk van de voorgaande conclusies.

21. Systeem voor het grootbrengen van kuikens, omvattende:

- a) een inrichting volgens elk van conclusies 1-20
- b) een waterbron, voor het toevoeren van water aan de watertoevoer
- c) een voerbron, voor het toevoeren van voer aan de voertoevoer.

15

1/4



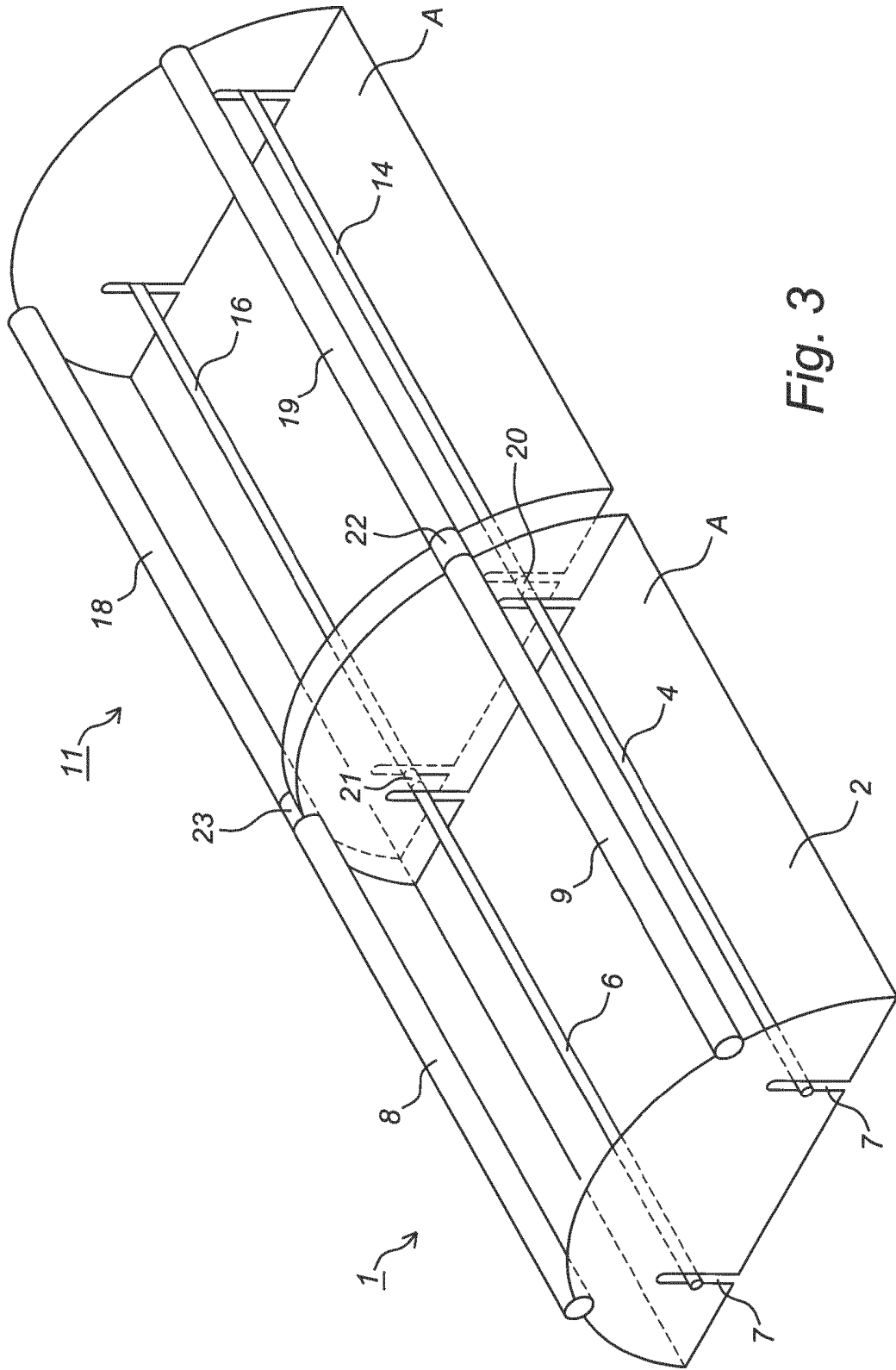


Fig. 3

3/4

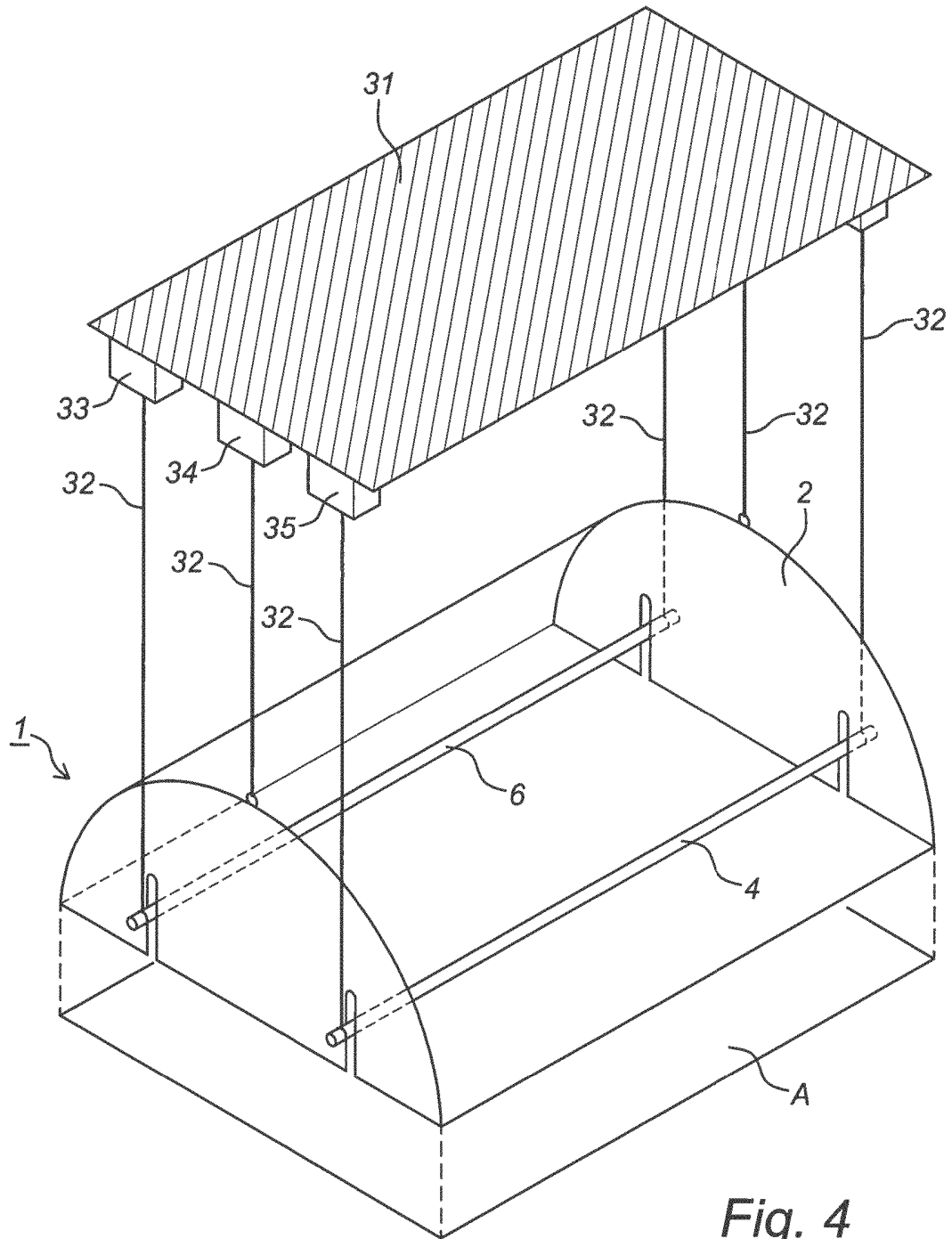


Fig. 4

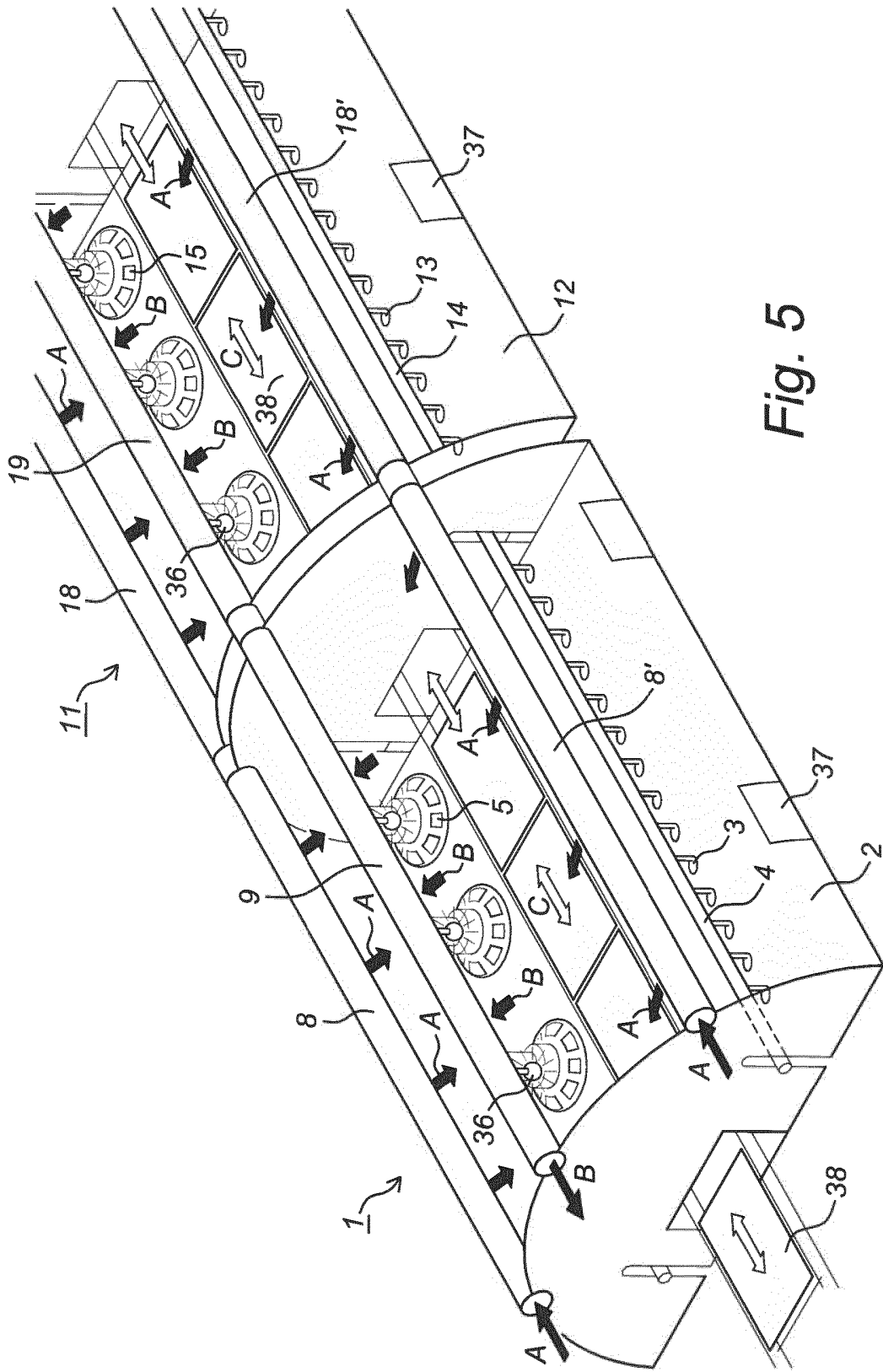


Fig. 5

SAMENWERKINGSVERDRAG (PCT)

RAPPORT BETREFFENDE NIEUWHEIDSONDERZOEK VAN INTERNATIONAAL TYPE

IDENTIFICATIE VAN DE NATIONALE AANVRAGE		KENMERK VAN DE AANVRAGER OF VAN DE GEMACHTIGDE	
		1.1090.001 NL	
Nederlands aanvraag nr.		Indieningsdatum	
2012178		31-01-2014	
		Ingeroepen voorrangsdatum	
Aanvrager (Naam)			
Camps			
Datum van het verzoek voor een onderzoek van internationaal type		Door de Instantie voor Internationaal Onderzoek aan het verzoek voor een onderzoek van internationaal type toegekend nr.	
22-03-2014		SN 61729	
I. CLASSIFICATIE VAN HET ONDERWERP (bij toepassing van verschillende classificaties, alle classificatiesymbolen opgeven)			
Volgens de internationale classificatie (IPC)			
A01K31/18		A01K31/20 A01K31/19	
II. ONDERZOCHETE GEBIEDEN VAN DE TECHNIEK			
Onderzochte minimumdocumentatie			
Classificatiesysteem		Classificatiesymbolen	
IPC		A01K	
Onderzochte andere documentatie dan de minimum documentatie, voor zover dergelijke documenten in de onderzochte gebieden zijn opgenomen			
III.	☐	GEEN ONDERZOEK MOGELIJK VOOR BEPAALDE CONCLUSIES (opmerkingen op aanvullingsblad)	
IV.	☐	GEBREK AAN EENHEID VAN UITVINDING (opmerkingen op aanvullingsblad)	

**ONDERZOEKSRAPPORT BETREFFENDE HET
RESULTAAT VAN HET ONDERZOEK NAAR DE STAND
VAN DE TECHNIEK VAN HET INTERNATIONALE TYPE**

Nummer van het verzoek om een onderzoek naar
de stand van de techniek
NL 2012178

A. CLASSIFICATIE VAN HET ONDERWERP

INV. A01K31/18 A01K31/20 A01K31/19
ADD.

Volgens de Internationale Classificatie van octrooien (IPC) of zowel volgens de nationale classificatie als volgens de IPC.

B. ONDERZOCHE GEBIEDEN VAN DE TECHNIEK

Onderzochte minimum documentatie (classificatie gevolgd door classificatiesymbolen)
A01K

Onderzochte andere documentatie dan de minimum documentatie, voor dergelijke documenten, voor zover dergelijke documenten in de onderzochte gebieden zijn opgenomen

Tijdens het onderzoek geraadpleegde elektronische gegevensbestanden (naam van de gegevensbestanden en, waar uitvoerbaar, gebruikte trefwoorden)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. VAN BELANG GEACHTE DOCUMENTEN

Categorie °	Geciteerde documenten, eventueel met aanduiding van speciaal van belang zijnde passages	Van belang voor conclusie nr.
X	US 5 189 983 A (AITCHISON DAVID [US]) 2 maart 1993 (1993-03-02)	1,2, 16-18,20
Y	* kolom 7, regel 13 - kolom 8, regel 35; figuren 1-9 *	3-11,15, 19,21
Y	----- NL 1 003 350 C2 (A K B BEHEERMAATSCHAPPIJ B V [NL]) 19 december 1997 (1997-12-19)	3-6,19, 21
A	* bladzijde 3, regels 12-26 * * bladzijde 4, regel 32 - bladzijde 5, regel 33; figuren 1-4 *	1,2, 16-18,20
Y	----- US 3 196 834 A (HALL NATT A) 27 juli 1965 (1965-07-27)	7-11,15
A	* het gehele document *	1-6, 12-14, 16-21
	----- -/-	

☒ Verdere documenten worden vermeld in het vervolg van vak C.

☒ Leden van dezelfde octrooifamilie zijn vermeld in een bijlage

° Speciale categorieën van aangehaalde documenten

"A" niet tot de categorie X of Y behorende literatuur die de stand van de techniek beschrijft

"D" in de octrooiaanvraag vermeld

"E" eerdere octrooi(aanvraag), gepubliceerd op of na de indieningsdatum, waarin dezelfde uitvinding wordt beschreven

"L" om andere redenen vermelde literatuur

"O" niet-schriftelijke stand van de techniek

"P" tussen de voorrangsdatum en de indieningsdatum gepubliceerde literatuur

"T" na de indieningsdatum of de voorrangsdatum gepubliceerde literatuur die niet bezwarend is voor de octrooiaanvraag, maar wordt vermeld ter verheldering van de theorie of het principe dat ten grondslag ligt aan de uitvinding

"X" de conclusie wordt als niet nieuw of niet inventief beschouwd ten opzichte van deze literatuur

"Y" de conclusie wordt als niet inventief beschouwd ten opzichte van de combinatie van deze literatuur met andere geciteerde literatuur van dezelfde categorie, waarbij de combinatie voor de vakman voor de hand liggend wordt geacht

"&" lid van dezelfde octrooifamilie of overeenkomstige octrooipublicatie

Datum waarop het onderzoek naar de stand van de techniek van internationaal type werd voltooid

9 oktober 2014

Verzenddatum van het rapport van het onderzoek naar de stand van de techniek van internationaal type

Naam en adres van de instantie

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

De bevoegde ambtenaar

von Arx, Vik

**ONDERZOEKSRAPPORT BETREFFENDE HET
RESULTAAT VAN HET ONDERZOEK NAAR DE STAND
VAN DE TECHNIEK VAN HET INTERNATIONALE TYPE**

Nummer van het verzoek om een onderzoek naar
de stand van de techniek
NL 2012178

C. (Vervolg). VAN BELANG GEACHTE DOCUMENTEN

Categorie °	Geciteerde documenten, eventueel met aanduiding van speciaal van belang zijnde passages	Van belang voor conclusie nr.
A	GB 2 041 715 A (MISATO PLAHEAT MFG) 17 september 1980 (1980-09-17) * bladzijde 3, regels 67-70 * * bladzijde 5, regels 3-98; figuren 3, 4, 8, 13 * -----	1,7-15, 20

**ONDERZOEKSRAPPORT BETREFFENDE HET
RESULTAAT VAN HET ONDERZOEK NAAR DE STAND
VAN DE TECHNIEK VAN HET INTERNATIONALE TYPE**
Informatie over leden van dezelfde octrooifamilie

Nummer van het verzoek om een onderzoek naar
de stand van de techniek
NL 2012178

In het rapport genoemd octrooigeschrift	Datum van publicatie	Overeenkomend(e) geschrift(en)	Datum van publicatie
US 5189983	A	02-03-1993	GEEN
NL 1003350	C2	19-12-1997	GEEN
US 3196834	A	27-07-1965	GEEN
GB 2041715	A	17-09-1980	CH 628948 A5 31-03-1982
		DE 2915805 A1 11-09-1980	
		FR 2449398 A1 19-09-1980	
		GB 2041715 A 17-09-1980	
		JP S55112941 A 01-09-1980	
		NL 7903064 A 26-08-1980	
		US 4239020 A 16-12-1980	

WRITTEN OPINION

File No. SN61729	Filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 31.01.2014	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>)	Application No. NL2012178
International Patent Classification (IPC) INV. A01K31/18 A01K31/20 A01K31/19			
Applicant Camps			

This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☒ Box No. VII Certain defects in the application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the application

	Examiner von Arx, Vik
--	--------------------------

WRITTEN OPINION

Application number

NL2012178

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. This opinion has been established on the basis of the latest set of claims filed before the start of the search.
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the application in electronic form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

Box No. V Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty	Yes: Claims	3-15, 19, 21
	No: Claims	1, 2, 16-18, 20
Inventive step	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-21
Industrial applicability	Yes: Claims	1-21
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

WRITTEN OPINION

Application number
NL2012178

Box No. VII Certain defects in the application

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: US 5 189 983 A (AITCHISON DAVID [US]) 2 maart 1993 (1993-03-02)
- D2: NL 1 003 350 C2 (A K B BEHEERMAATSCHAPPIJ B V [NL]) 19 december 1997 (1997-12-19)
- D3: US 3 196 834 A (HALL NATT A) 27 juli 1965 (1965-07-27)
- D4: GB 2 041 715 A (MISATO PLAHEAT MFG) 17 september 1980 (1980-09-17)

The present application does not meet the criteria of patentability, because the subject-matter of claims 1, 2 and 20 is not new.

Document D1 discloses, see the whole document and in particular the passages cited in the search report, the reference signs applying to this document:

"Device for rearing chicks, comprising:

- a) a housing (108), for the protection of the chicks;
 - b) a water supply (the reservoir of drinker 104) within the housing to supply water to a water dispenser (the tray of drinker 104);
 - c) a feed supply (22), at least partially within the housing, to supply feed to a feed dispenser (92);
 - d) wherein the water supply and the feed supply are adjustable in height relative to a ground surface (72) under the housing;
- wherein the housing (108) is also adjustable in height relative to the ground surface (72)".

From the above it appears that all the features of claims 1, 2 and 20 are known from this one document D1 at least by implication and the subject matter of said claims can therefore not be regarded as new.

Document D1 further discloses also all the features of dependent claims 16 to 18 and the subject matter of said claims can therefore not be regarded as new.

Present claims 3 to 6 and 19 are directed to the provision of the housing with slots, through which the feed supply and the water supply may extend to supply a further device with feed and water, wherein the slots are, in vertical direction, larger compared to feed or water supply. D1 already discloses slots 148 and 150 for accommodating the feed supply lines, but fails to disclose such slots for

accommodating water supply tubes.

However, slots for accommodating feed supply lines as well water supply line and for allowing chicks to pass through have already been employed for the same purpose in a similar brooding installation, see document D2, see the whole document and in particular the passages cited in the search report. It would be obvious to the person skilled in the art, namely when the same result is to be achieved, to apply these features with corresponding effect to the brooding devices according to D1, thereby arriving at a device according to claims 3 to 6 and 19 without the exercise of an inventive activity.

Also the subject matter of independent claim 21 does not involve an inventive step in view of the obvious combination of D1 with D2.

Dependent claims 7 to 11 and 15 are directed to the features of the housing being provided with an air system to refresh the air inside the housing. Such air system is already known from document D3, see the whole document and in particular the passages cited in the search report. It would be obvious to the person skilled in the art, namely when the same result is to be achieved, to apply the features known from D3 with corresponding effect to the brooding devices according to D1, thereby arriving at a device according to claims 7 to 11 and 15 without the exercise of an inventive activity.

Dependent claims 12 to 14 relate to constructional features directed to ventilation which are partly if not wholly revealed in the prior art quoted in the search report (see document D4) or which form part of the normal consideration of the person skilled in the art of ventilating animal buildings, i.e. they are the result of routine engineering and do not constitute an inspired design. Therefore the dependent claims 12 to 14 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of inventive step.

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the application

The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses.

The relevant background art disclosed in documents D1, D2 and D3 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.