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(74) Agents: WEICKMANN & WEICKMANN et al.; Post-
fach 860 820, 81635 München (DE).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ELBION
GMBH** [DE/DE]; Meissner Strasse 191, 01445 Radebeul
(DE).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **LANKAU,
Han-Joachim** [DE/DE]; Coswiger Str. 19, 01689
Winböhla (DE). **HÖFGEN, Norbert** [DE/DE]; Hufenweg
1, 01458 Ottendorf-Okrilla (DE). **HARTENHAUER,
Helge** [DE/DE]; Georg-Schumann-Str. 16, 01187 Dresden
(DE). **HEINECKE, Kristina** [DE/DE]; Horst-Vieth-Str.
8, 01445 Radebeul (DE).

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(54) Title: METHOD FOR PREPARING A FLUPIRTINE MALEATE OF A CRYSTAL MODIFICATION B

(57) Abstract: The present invention refers to a method for the production of a flupirtine maleate of the crystal modification B.

AMENDED CLAIMS**received by the International Bureau on 19 September 2008 (19.09.2008)****Claims**

1. A method of preparing flupirtine maleate of crystal modification B, comprising the steps:
 - (i) providing a flupirtine starting material;
 - (ii) dissolving the starting material in a solvent or solvent mixture which supports formation of flupirtine maleate of crystal modification B, wherein the solvent is an organic solvent selected from aromatic hydrocarbons, aromatic halogenated hydrocarbons, aliphatic esters, aliphatic ketones or mixtures thereof with other solvents or wherein the solvent is water or a mixture thereof with other solvents,
 - (iii) if necessary, converting the dissolved starting material to flupirtine maleate, and
 - (iv) obtaining flupirtine maleate of crystal modification B from the solution of step (ii) or (iii).
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the flupirtine maleate of crystal modification B obtained in step (iv) is substantially free from flupirtine maleate of crystal modification A, i.e. the amount of crystal modification A is less than 5% (w/w), more preferably less than 2% (w/w), and most preferably less than 1% (w/w).
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the flupirtine maleate of crystal modification B obtained in step (iv) is free from detectable amounts of flupirtine maleate of crystal modification A.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the flupirtine starting material is flupirtine maleate of crystal modification A or flupirtine maleate in a mixture of crystal modifications A and B or solvates thereof.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the flupirtine starting material is flupirtine base and step (iii) comprises adding of maleic acid.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is selected from toluene, xylene, mesitylene, chlorobenzene, butyl acetate, pentyl acetate and hexyl acetate.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein step (iv) comprises crystallising the flupirtine maleate of crystal modification B from the solution.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising drying the flupirtine maleate of crystal modification B.