Abstract: The invention relates to a method for preparing a crunchy snack-type meat food product, said method comprising the following steps consisting in: cutting pieces of muscle into strips of meat, cutting in the direction of the muscle fibres of the muscle pieces; pressing the meat strips together in parallel in a mould, freezing the meat strips in the mould to form a frozen block of meat strips; removing the frozen block of meat strips from the mould; slicing said frozen block transversely to the muscle fibres, thereby obtaining sheets or slices of meat; and dehydrating and cooking same.

Resumen: Un proceso para preparar un alimento de carne tipo botana de textura crujiente, el proceso contempla los pasos de cortar piezas de músculo en tiras en donde el corte se realiza en sentido de las fibras musculares de las piezas de músculo; aplanar las tiras de carne de manera paralela dentro de un molde; congelar las tiras de carne en el molde hasta formar un bloque congelado de tiras de carne; desmoldar dicho bloque congelado de tiras de carne; rebanar el bloque congelado de tiras de carne en dirección transversal a las fibras musculares obteniéndose láminas, rodajas u hojuelas de carne; y deshidratar y cocer dichas láminas, rodajas u hojuelas de carne.
### A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification symbols</th>
<th>USPC -</th>
<th>IPC(8) -</th>
</tr>
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</table>

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

- Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

- PubWEST – PGPB, USPTO, USOC, EPAB, JPAB; Dialog Classic Files – 654, 652, 349, 348, 35, 65, 155; USPTO Web Page; Google Scholar
- Search terms – meat snack, strips, cuts, beef, block mold, freezing, resting, heating, dehydrating, salt, compression, protein content, water activity, moisture content, carbohydrate content, ash, fiber content

### C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category*</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>US 2009/0254168 A1 (MUELLER et al.) 16 October 2008 (16.10.2008) para [0117], [0119], [0121], [0122], [0130], [0131], [0133], [0134]</td>
<td>3, 11, 12</td>
</tr>
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</table>

* Special categories of cited documents:
  - "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
  - "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
  - "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
  - "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
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  - "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
  - "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
  - "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
  - "Q" document member of the same patent family

**Date of the actual completion of the international search**

13 November 2011 (13.11.2011)

**Date of mailing of the international search report**

01 DEC 2011

**Name and mailing address of the ISA/US**

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**Authorized officer:**

Lee W. Young

PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300

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