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(54) Title: COMPOSITION FOR COMBATING ECTOPARASITES AND THEIR OVA

(57) Abstract: The invention pertains to compositions for combating ectoparasites, in particular head lice, as well as their eggs (nits). The compositions comprise a linear polysiloxane having a viscosity < 10 cSt and a linear siloxane having a viscosity > 90 cSt, whereby dimeticones are preferred polysiloxanes.

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Composition for combating ectoparasites and their ova

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The present invention pertains to compositions for combating ectoparasites, in particular head lice, as well as their eggs (nits).

15 Ectoparasites, such as lice, are parasites of the skin which are preferably located in very hairy regions. There, the female species lay ova which are encased in protective sheaths adhered to the hairs; in the case of lice these ova are also referred to as nits. Eggs of ectoparasites are often encased in protective sheaths which cannot be attacked by many toxic agents.

20 Neither lice nor nits can be removed by a normal hair wash, only a local treatment with suited agents, in particular insecticides, can be successful to remove lice and/or nits. In Germany, there are currently six drug-products for treating head lice on the market which contain as active ingredients allethrin, lindan, permethrin and pyrethrum, respectively. These active ingredients are very efficient, however, they are of toxicological concern and recently the
25 development of resistances against these agents has been observed.

Various cosmetic and medicinal products for controlling ectoparasites have been developed as alternatives to drug-products, however, many of these products proved to be less or non efficient. A promising approach is the use of siloxane polymers for combating ectoparasites.

30 For instance, the German patent application DE 2 823 595 discloses compositions for controlling lice and/or their eggs, comprising an amount of linear siloxane polymers, in

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particular dimethicones. It is explicitly stated in said patent application that dimethicones having a viscosity in the range from 100 to 1000 cSt are most efficient in combating lice.

5 European patent application EP 1 215 965 discloses compositions for combating arthropodes comprising two different silicones, one of which is a volatile siloxane polymer and the other is a non-volatile siloxane polymer. The volatile siloxane is preferably a cyclic siloxane such as cyclopentasiloxane or cyclomethicone, which is used in amounts of 95.5-97.5 wt.-%, based on the composition.

10 While some of these prior art compositions are satisfactory in combating lice, they have a very low ovicidal efficacy, i.e. they do not destroy nits reliably. A further disadvantage of these known compositions is that they are potentially noxious.

15 Thus, there is still a need for toxicologically acceptable but highly effective compositions for combating ectoparasites and their eggs.

In experiments underlying the present invention it was surprisingly found that compositions comprising a very low viscosity linear polysiloxane, a higher viscosity linear polysiloxane, and a spreading agent are highly effective against lice as well as against nits. Due to the
20 omission of cyclic siloxanes these compositions are further very well tolerated.

The compositions according to the invention have a very low surface tension and, at the same time, a high spreadability. Without wishing to be bound to any theory, it is believed that the compositions due to their very favourable creep properties can penetrate deeply into the
25 tracheae and tracheols of the adult head lice and their larvas, and into the aeropyles of the nits. There, the volatile siloxane used in accordance with the invention evaporates, whereupon the composition in the trachea and the nits, respectively, becomes more and more thick and

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eventually clots. As a consequence, the lice, larvae and nits are separated from a gas exchange and suffocate.

5 The compositions according to the invention comprise a linear polysiloxane having a viscosity < 10 cSt and a linear siloxane having a viscosity > 90 cSt. Dimethicones are preferred polysiloxanes. According to the preferred embodiment the composition comprises dimethicone having a viscosity of 1 cSt and dimethicone having a viscosity of 100 cSt. The low viscosity polysiloxane is contained in amounts of from 30-49 wt.-% and the higher viscosity polysiloxane is contained in amounts of from 35-65 wt.-%, in each case based on the
10 total weight of the composition.

The compositions according to the invention further comprise a spreading agent such as well spreading triglycerides derived from short chain or medium chain fatty acids such as medium chain triglycerides according to the European Pharmacopeia, coconut oil, palm kernel oil,
15 babussu oil, glycerol triacetate, or well-spreading waxes or esters of fatty acids and fatty alcohols such as jojoba wax, cetearyl isononanoate, cetearyl octanoate, isopropylmyristate, isopropylpalmitate, ethylhexylpalmitate or cocoyl caprylocaprate. Preferably, the compositions according to the invention contain 2-10 wt.-% medium chain triglycerides and/or 1-5 wt.-% jojoba wax.

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The compositions can further comprise common cosmetic excipients such as fragrances or common skin care components.

The following examples illustrate the invention in more detail.

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Examples

Compositions comprising the ingredients listed in the following table were produced:

Ingredient	Inv. 1	Inv. 2	Comp.
Dimethicone 1 cSt	40	42	92
Dimethicone 100 cSt	50	50	-
Medium chain triglycerides	-	5	5
Jojoba wax	2	2	2
Fragrance	1	1	1
Babussu oil	5	-	-
Isododecane	2	-	-

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All amounts are indicated in wt.-%.

The compositions "Inv. 1" and "Inv. 2" according to the invention and the comparative
 10 composition "Comp." were examined with respect to their efficacy in killing lice and their
 ova. For this purpose the compositions were left on stage 3 lice larvae (which are indicated as
 reference for motile lice stages (adult lice and larvae)), on nits being younger than 24 hours
 ("Nits I"), and on nits being older than 24 hours ("Nits II") for 45 minutes. The results of
 these experiments are summarized in the following table, whereby the percentages relate to
 15 the amount of killed larvae/nits in the respective stages.

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Composition	Larvae	Nits I	Nits II
Inv. 1	100 %	75,7 %	39,5 %
Inv. 2	100 %	100 %	67,5 %
Comp.	100 %	27,5 %	29,1 %

5 It can be seen that all compositions have a very high efficacy in killing lice, but that only the combination of a high viscosity polysiloxane, a low viscosity polysiloxanes and a spreading agent in accordance with the invention exhibits a satisfactory ovicidal efficacy.

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Claims

1. Composition for killing ectoparasites and/or their ova, comprising 30-49 wt.-%, based on the composition, of a low viscosity linear polysiloxane having a viscosity < 10 cSt, 5 35-65 wt.-%, based on the composition, of a higher viscosity linear polysiloxane having a viscosity > 90 cSt, and at least one spreading agent.

2. Composition according to claim 1, characterized in that the spreading agent is selected from medium chain triglycerides, coconut oil, palm kernel oil, babussu oil, glycerol 10 triacetate, jojoba wax, cetearyl isononanoate, cetearyl octanoate, isopropylmyristate, isopropylplamitate, ethylhexylpalmitate and cocoyl caprylocaprante.

3. Composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that it contains 2- 10 wt.-% of medium chain triglycerides and/or 1-5 wt.-% jojoba wax as spreading agent, the 15 percentages being based on the composition.

4. Composition according to any of claims 1-3, characterized in that the low viscosity polysiloxane is dimethicone having a viscosity of 1 cSt and the higher viscosity polysiloxane is dimethicone having a viscosity of 100 cSt.

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