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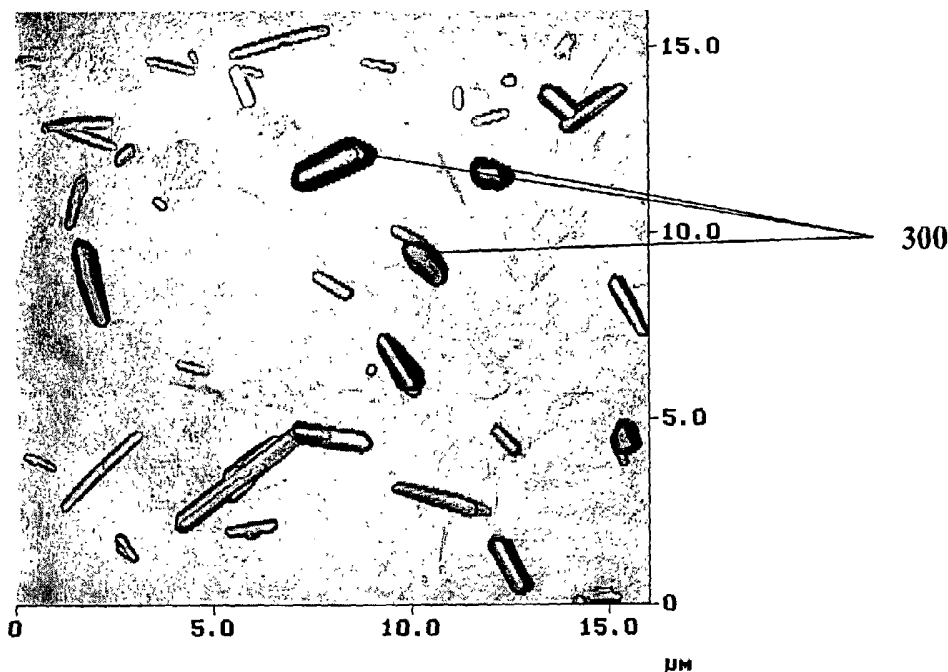
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PREPARATION OF MICROPARTICLES HAVING IMPROVED FLOWABILITY



(57) Abstract: Methods for preparing microparticles having improved flowability to facilitate processing in automated equipment. Microparticles are conditioned so that a flowability index of the microparticles is greater than about 60. The conditioning preferably includes maintaining the microparticles at a conditioning temperature for a period of time. The conditioning can be used with microparticles containing an active agent, and with placebo microparticles, and it is reversible.



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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
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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)  
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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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>WO 00 40221 A (LYONS SHAWN L ;ALKERMES INC (US); WRIGHT STEVEN G (US); RAMSTACK M) 13 July 2000 (2000-07-13)</p> <p>page 14, line 12 -page 17, line 25; claim 23; figure 2; example 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/--</p>	<p>1,2, 6-11,15, 16, 20-26, 30-39, 43-50, 53-56, 59-63</p>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Information on patent family members

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