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(54) Title: A METHOD OF TIGHTENING AND SMOOTHING THE SKIN IN PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the production of personal care products that have desirable texture and viscosity as well demonstrating skin tightening, smoothing, or cooling properties. These personal care products contain a specific mixture of carrageenans to yield these desired properties. More specifically, a topical formulation comprising a carrageenan component wherein the carrageenan component is selected from the group selected from a kappa type carrageenan; an iota type carrageenan; and a lambda type carrageenan; and wherein the carrageenan component comprises between 0.2 and 3 wt% of the topical formulation is described.



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A METHOD OF TIGHTENING AND SMOOTHING THE SKIN IN PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/374,731, filed September 6, 2022, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/325,776, filed March 31, 2022, each of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

FIELD OF INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to the production of personal care products that have desirable texture and viscosity as well demonstrating skin tightening and smoothing properties. These personal care products contain carrageenans to yield these desired properties.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Carrageenans are a family of natural linear sulphated polysaccharides that are extracted from red edible seaweed. The most well-known and still most important red seaweed used for manufacturing of carrageenan is *Chondrus crispus* (Irish moss) which is a dark red parsley-like plant that grows attached to the rocks. Carrageenans are large, highly flexible molecules that form curling helical structures in solutions or mixtures. This gives them the ability to form a variety of different gels at room temperature and they are widely used in the food industry, for their gelling, thickening, and stabilizing properties, however, they have also gained interest in many other applications because of these properties. They are known to be effective ingredients in many personal care applications.

[0004] While other forms exist such as mu and nu, there are three main commercial classes of carrageenan (kappa, iota, and lambda). Kappa forms strong, rigid gels in the presence of cations such as sodium, potassium, and calcium ions, and reacts with dairy proteins. It is sourced mainly from *Kappaphycus alvarezii*. Iota forms soft gels in the presence of calcium ions. It is produced mainly from *Eucheuma denticulatum*; and Lambda does not gel, and is often used to thicken dairy products.

[0005] The primary differences influencing the properties of the carrageenans, including kappa, iota, and lambda carrageenan, are the number and position of the ester sulfate groups on the repeating galactose units. Higher levels of ester sulfate lower the solubility temperature of

the carrageenan and produce lower strength gels, or contribute to gel inhibition (eg. lambda carrageenan).

[0006] All are soluble in hot water, but in cold water, only the lambda form (and the sodium salts of the other two) are soluble.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0007] While the uses of the various forms of carrageenan is known in a broad variety of commercial settings, each of the forms has positive and negative functional attributes. It would be desirable to have formulations that could take advantage of the collective positive attributes of the various forms without suffering the negatives. However, because of the varying properties of the different forms of carrageenans, predicting the properties of any mixture of the forms is very difficult.

[0008] The present disclosure relates to surprising discovery that kappa, lambda, and iota type carrageenan have highly desirable to tighten and smooth the skin.

[0009] In one aspect the present invention discloses a topical formulation comprising a carrageenan component wherein the carrageenan component comprises a carrageenan selected from group consisting of:

- a) a kappa type carrageenan;
- b) an iota type carrageenan;
- c) a lambda type carrageenan; and mixtures thereof;

wherein the carrageenan component comprises between 0.2 and 3 wt% of the topical formulation and the topical formulation is used for tightening or smoothing the skin.

[0010] Another aspect discloses a method of tightening the skin of a human comprising applying to the skin a topical formulation comprising a carrageenan selected from group consisting of:

- a) a kappa type carrageenan;
- b) an iota type carrageenan;
- c) a lambda type carrageenan; and mixtures thereof;

wherein the carrageenan component comprises between 0.2 and 3 wt% of the topical formulation.

[0011] Another aspect discloses a method of smoothing the skin of a human comprising applying to the skin a topical formulation comprising a carrageenan selected from group consisting of:

- a) a kappa type carrageenan;
- b) an iota type carrageenan;
- c) a lambda type carrageenan;
- d) and mixtures thereof;

wherein the carrageenan component comprises between 0.2 and 3 wt% of the topical formulation.

[0012] In one aspect, the present invention discloses a topical formulation comprising a kappa type carrageenan wherein: the kappa carrageenan comprises between 0.2 and 3 wt% of the topical formulation and the topical formulation is used for tightening or smoothing the skin.

[0013] Another aspect discloses a method of tightening the skin of a human comprising applying to the skin a topical formulation comprising a kappa type carrageenan; wherein the kappa carrageenan component comprises between 0.2 and 3 wt% of the topical formulation.

[0014] Another aspect discloses a method of smoothing the skin of a human comprising applying to the skin a topical formulation comprising a kappa type carrageenan; wherein the kappa carrageenan component comprises between 0.2 and 3 wt% of the topical formulation.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0015] Explanations of abbreviations and terms used in this disclosure are provided to assist in comprehending and practicing the invention.

[0016] All ratios of composition, blend, or formulation components referred to herein by "percentage" means percentage by weight (wt%), unless otherwise specifically specified.

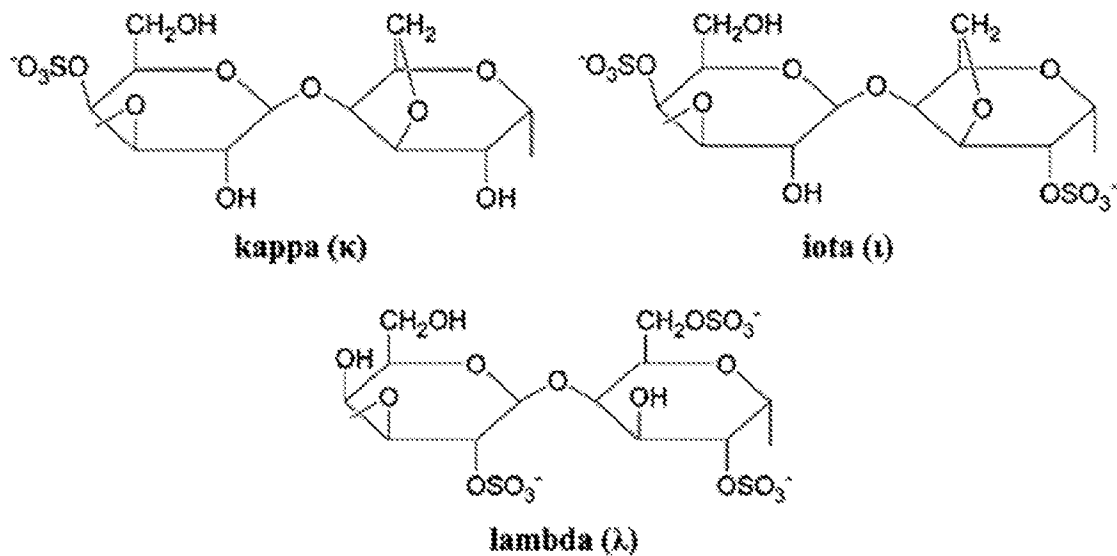
[0017] All parameter ranges disclosed include the end-points and all values in between, unless otherwise specified.

[0018] Representative features are set out in the following description, which stand alone or may be combined, in any combination, with one or more features disclosed elsewhere in the description and/or drawings of the specification.

[0019] When used in this specification and claims, the terms "comprises" and "comprising" and variations thereof mean that the specified features, steps or integers are included. The terms are not to be interpreted to exclude the presence of other features, steps or components.

Carrageenans

[0020] The basic structure of carrageenans is a linear polysaccharide made up of a repeating disaccharide sequence of β -D-galactopyranose linked through positions 1,3 (A residues) and α -D-galactopyranose residues linked through positions 1,4 (B residues). The regular backbone structure of the basic structure of carrageenans is disrupted by a more or less ordered distribution of sulphate groups. Some of the galactose units have attached sulfate groups, while others are unsulfated. The three main types (iota, kappa and lambda) of carrageenan molecules differ by (1) the types of linkages between the galactose units, and (2) the point of attachment and number of the sulfate groups on each of the galactose units. These apparently small differences in chemical constitution and structure make major differences in the properties of each type of molecule.



[0021] Gelling in carrageenan is caused by helix formation and this can only occur in repeat structures where the B residue is in a 1-C-4 conformation. Lambda carrageenan (theoretically having 3 sulphate groups per repeating unit) has both its sugar residues in a 4-C-1 conformation and therefore does not form gels. It is therefore known to the skilled person that lambda carrageenan should be avoided when gelling is a strong requirement of the end use of a formulation including carrageenans.

[0022] All the gelling types of carrageenan which include the kappa type (theoretically having 1 sulphate group per repeating unit; the most naturally abundant type of carrageenan molecule) and the iota type (theoretically having 2 sulphate groups per repeating unit; the least naturally abundant type of carrageenan molecule) all contain a 3,6-anhydro bridge on the B unit

which forces the sugar to flip from a 4-C-1 conformation to a 1-C-4 conformation and can then form cross-link networks and gels.

[0023] Some types of seaweed species contain relatively pure carrageenan fractions. *Kappaphycus Alvarezii* contains largely kappa carrageenan and mu carrageenan which may be converted to kappa carrageenan by alkali treatment. *Eucheuma Denticulatum* contains a similarly high level of iota carrageenan with some nu carrageenan precursor. Other seaweeds are more mixed in their carrageenan content. *Furcellaran* contains a strong gelling type carrageenan which is a mix of kappa carrageenan and β carrageenan in a roughly 3:2 ratio. Other seaweed types, such as *Chondrus crispus* and *Gigartina* types contain not only a mix of kappa and lambda type carrageenans but also a type of carrageenan polymer that is essentially a block copolymer of different carrageenan types. This gives the carrageenan made from *Gigartina* or *Chondrus* weed species quite different properties from those made from the *Eucheuma* type species from Southeast Asia.

[0024] Many red algal species produce different types of carrageenans during their developmental history. For instance, the genus *Gigartina* produces mainly kappa carrageenans during its gametophytic stage, and lambda carrageenans during its sporophytic stage.

[0025] Carrageenan isolated from natural seaweed sources will contain long polymers substituted with a varying number of sulphate structures. Carrageenan will not be purely of one type of repeating units. For that reason, an isolated carrageenan can be more or less of one "type" based on the degree of sulphate substitution. A sample of carrageenan can be analysed by methods known in the art to determine what proportion of the polymers' monomeric residues are of what type.

[0026] The term "Kappa Type" as used herein refers to a form of carrageenan that contains greater than 80% of its monomeric residues in the kappa form. In some aspects, kappa type will contain greater than 85% of its monomeric residues in the kappa form. In some aspects, kappa type will contain between 80% and 95% its monomeric residues in the kappa form.

[0027] The term "Iota Type" as used herein refers to a form of carrageenan that contains greater than 80% of its monomeric residues in the iota form. In some aspects, iota type will contain greater than 85% of its monomeric residues in the iota form. In some aspects, iota type will contain between 80% and 95% its monomeric residues in the iota form.

[0028] The term "Lambda Type" as used herein refers to a form of carrageenan that contains greater than 20% of its monomeric residues in the lambda form. In some aspects,

lambda type will contain greater than 24 % of its monomeric residues in the lambda form. In some aspects, lambda type will contain between 15% and 30% its monomeric residues in the lambda form.

[0029] Various forms of carrageenans are commercially available from a variety of commercial producers. For example, the carrageenans utilized in the present disclosure are commercially available from Cargill incorporated under the trade designations (VPC 614 kappa type, VPC 430 lambda type, and VPC 508 iota type). Similar to any natural product, the exact content of any carrageenan extract will vary slightly depending on time of harvest, particular species, or season.

Table 1- Compositions of commercially available carrageenans from Cargill Incorporated

	VPC 614 (kappa)	VPC 430 (lamda)	VPC 508 (iota)
Kappa*	86.2	27.9	3
Iota*	9.8	21.3	86.2
Lambda*	ND	24	ND
Mu*	2.9	5.5	5.6
Nu*	ND	19.9	ND

*Values in the table represent an average content from 7 or more samples. ND means amounts of this form was not detected.

[0030] In another aspect the present invention is directed to the use of individual types of carrageenans or any blend of the individual types of carrageenans in a personal care composition useful for the smoothing or tightening of the skin. Blends may include all types of carrageenans or just two or more of the types. In another aspect, these blends are used to make a personal care formulation or topical formulation and such formulations may be used to tighten or smooth the skin.

[0031] Application of carrageenans to the skin has surprisingly been shown to affect the overall topography of the skin surface. Despite a long history of use in personal care compositions to modify the texture and viscosity of products, this effect on the skin has never been reported. The skin topography is affected in two different ways. First, the product's application has been shown to reduce the height of small peaks and the depth of microfolds on

the skin. Thereby demonstrating a smoothing effect where the skin's roughness is reduced. In addition, the product's application has been shown to narrow the width of microfolds in the skin thereby tightening the skin and eliminating or reducing the visibility of these microfolds. This effect could also be called the reduction of wrinkles or the reduction of fine lines or the reduction of crow's feet around the eyes. The term tightening would encompass any of these alternative descriptions or any description that embodies the concept of reducing the width of microfolds on the skin.

Personal care composition

[0032] In one aspect, the present invention is the use of carrageenan and mixtures thereof disclosed herein in various personal care products. The personal care composition may be prepared by creating an aqueous phase of predominately water and adding the carrageenans with mixing. The mixing is often done at elevated temperature (approximately 75°C) to facilitate complete incorporation. The type of mixing is not critical and typical mixing equipment used in the art may be employed with the present compositions. In order facilitate quicker and mor efficient mixing medium or high shear equipment is desirable.

[0033] The carrageenans may be added as a premix or individually. Additional ingredients may then be added to the formulation and pH adjusted as desired. The mixture is cooled with or without stirring to yield the final personal care composition. The personal care composition my contain other active or inactive ingredients, humectants, or emollients. Active ingredients are those having a physiological effect on the skin or hair. The composition may be an emulsion containing emollients, colorants, active ingredients, and/or other texturizers.

[0034] With the temperature still above the gelling point, pH may be adjusted to approximately 5.5 to 6.0 by addition of an acid such as citric acid. Additional salts or electrolytes are added to the mixture as preservatives and/or to manage the gelling properties of the carrageenans. The amount of salts or electrolytes may be varied according the texture sought to be achieved. Typically, the amount of salts or electrolytes is approximately 0.25% to 1% of the composition. In some aspects it is approximately 0.5%. The mixture may then be cooled. Typically, high shear mixing is avoided after the addition salts or electrolytes and upon cooling to preserve the final product texture.

[0035] The amount and type of carrageenans utilized the personal care formulation can be varied by the skilled artisan to achieve the desired texture. In some aspects, the amount of carrageenans is between 0.2% and 3%. In other aspects, the amount is between 0.5% and 2%.

In another aspect the percentage of carrageenans in the personal care formula is between 0.5% and 1.5%.

1. *Aqueous Phase*

[0036] The topical formulation may contain an aqueous phase. The aqueous phase may comprise or consist of water, in particular a demineralized water; a floral water such as cornflower water; a mineral water such as Vittel water, Lucas water or La Roche Posay water; and/or a spring water. In some aspects, demineralized water, floral water, or a combination of both is used as the aqueous phase utilized by the present invention.

[0037] In some aspects, the amount of the aqueous phase in the topical formulation may be between 50 wt% to 99.5 wt%. In some aspects the amount of the aqueous phase in the topical formulation may be between 90 wt% to 98 wt%. The aqueous phase may optionally contain other soluble components such as an alcohol or polyol. In some aspects the aqueous phase may contain glycerol. In some aspects the topical formulation contains 1 to 4 wt% glycerol.

2. *Emulsions*

[0038] In some aspects, the personal care formulation may be an emulsion. An emulsion may be defined as a mixture containing two immiscible liquids, in which one liquid is dispersed as droplets or globules throughout the other. The dispersed liquid is called the dispersed phase, while the other liquid is called the continuous phase. In an oil-in-water emulsion, as in the present invention, the oil is the dispersed phase or oil phase, and water is the continuous phase or aqueous phase.

[0039] The topical formulation may also contain an oil phase dispersed in the aqueous phase. As used herein, the term “dispersion” refers to an oil phase forming droplets inside the aqueous phase. The droplets may have any sizes and shapes. Preferably, the droplets are homogeneously distributed throughout the aqueous phase. The nature of the oil phase of the emulsion is not critical. The oil phase may thus consist of any fatty substance conventionally used in the cosmetic or dermatological fields; in particular the oil phase may comprise at least one oil, i.e., any fatty substance that is in substantially or completely liquid form at room temperature (20-25°C) or elevated temperature of (40-70°C) and at atmospheric pressure (760 mmHg).

[0040] The preferred oil phase(s) comprises at least one oil which can be a hydrocarbon-based oil, i.e., an oil mainly containing hydrogen and carbon atoms and optionally oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and/or phosphorus atoms, for example in the form of hydroxyl or acid radicals; a silicone oil, i.e., an oil comprising at least one silicon atom and preferably at least one Si-O group; a fluoro oil, i.e., an oil comprising at least one fluorine atom; a non-fluoro oil, or a mixture thereof.

[0041] The hydrocarbon-based oils may be of animal origin or of vegetable origin, such as liquid triglycerides of fatty acids comprising from 4 to 20 carbon atoms, examples include, coconut oil, canola oil, rapeseed oil, sunflower oil; maize oil; soybean oil; cucumber oil; grape seed oil; sesame seed oil; hazelnut oil; apricot oil; macadamia oil; arara oil; castor oil; cocoa butter; almond oil; avocado oil; babassu oil; caprylic/capric acid triglycerides, such as those sold by Stearineries Dubois or those sold under the names Miglyol 810, 812 and 818 by Dynamit Nobel; Simmondsia Chinensis (Jojoba) Seed oil sold under the tradename Jojoba Oil Golden by Desert Whale; Beta-carotene sold under the tradename Betatene 30% OLV by Cognis (BASF); Rosa Canina Fruit Oil sold under the tradename Rosehip Seed Oil by Nestle World Trade Co.; shea butter oil; and mixtures thereof.

[0042] The hydrocarbon-based oils may be linear or branched hydrocarbons of mineral or synthetic origin. Alternatively, the hydrocarbon-based oils may be synthetic ethers; synthetic esters; fatty alcohols that are liquid at room temperature, with a branched and/or unsaturated carbon-based chain containing from 12 to 26 carbon atoms; C12-C22 higher fatty acids; or mixtures thereof.

[0043] The personal care composition may further comprise at least one further ingredient. The further ingredient may include, without limitation, a preservative, salt, vitamin, emulsifier, texturizer, nutrient, micronutrient, sugar, protein, polysaccharide, polyol, glucose, sucrose, glycerol, sorbitol, pH adjusters, emollients, dyes, pigments, skin actives, waxes or silicones.

Topical formulation

[0044] The ingredients provided herein are useful in the manufacture of topical formulations such as personal care products or cosmetics. The inventors unexpectedly found that formulations comprising carrageenans and mixture of carrageenans have numerous desirable characteristics as explained further below.

[0045] In one aspect, the present invention is a topical formulation comprising an emulsion as described herein. As used herein, the term “topical formulation” refers to a formulation that may be applied directly to a part of the body. The term “formulation” is used herein to denote compositions of various ingredients in various weight ranges, in accordance with the present invention.

[0046] The formulations manufactured with the ingredients described herein are suitable for use on hair, scalp, nails and skin, for delivering cosmetic or actives to the skin or hair for providing cleansing, conditioning, moisturizing, minimizing or treating skin imperfections, reducing skin oiliness, providing fragrances to the hair or skin and the like.

[0047] “Personal care” means and comprises any cosmetic, hygienic, toiletry and topical care products including, without limitation, leave-on products (i.e., products that are left on keratinous substrates after application); rinse-off products (i.e., products that are washed or rinsed from keratinous substrates during or within a few minutes of application); shampoos; hair curling and hair straightening products; hair style maintaining and hair conditioning products; lotions and creams for nails, hands, feet, face, scalp and/or body; hair dye; face and body makeup; nail care products; astringents; deodorants; antiperspirants; anti-acne; antiaging; depilatories; colognes and perfumes; skin protective creams and lotions (such as sunscreens); skin and body cleansers; skin conditioners; skin toners; skin firming compositions; skin tanning and lightening compositions; liquid soaps; bar soaps; bath products; shaving products; and oral hygiene products (such as toothpastes, oral suspensions, and mouth care products).

[0048] The texture of such personal care formulations is not limited and may be, without limitation, a liquid, gel, spray, emulsion (such as lotions and creams), shampoo, pomade, foam, tablet, stick (such as lip care products), makeup, suppositories, among others, any of which can be applied to the skin or hair or hale and which typically are designed to remain in contact therewith until removed, such as by rinsing with water or washing with shampoo or soap. Other forms could be gels that can be soft, stiff, or squeezable. Sprays can be non-pressurized aerosols delivered from manually pumped finger-actuated sprayers or can be pressurized aerosols such as mousse, spray, or foam forming formulation, where a chemical or gaseous propellant is used.

[0049] The topical formulation comprising the emulsion disclosed herein may be a serum or cream. Advantageously, the serum or cream may comprise one or more or any combination of lamda, kappa, and iota carrageenan.

[0050] Formulations prepared using the ingredients disclosed herein have a clear colorless or light white color that is generally considered to be aesthetically appealing. In some

cases, the formulations of the invention may be further processed to make a colored end product. In such cases, the lack of color is beneficial because it will show up the additional pigment without influencing the final color.

[0051] Furthermore, formulations prepared using the ingredients of the present invention have a good spreadability with pleasant residual feeling on the skin. The use of the ingredients of the present invention also improves texture and body of personal care products. This texture feels pleasant to touch and to apply. Furthermore, the consistency is such that good product pick-up may be achieved. Good product pick-up means that sufficient product (i.e., not too much, and not too little) can be collected on the user's finger.

[0052] Personal care products used for tightening the skin can be applied by spreading the product onto the skin with the hand or by use of a brush, swab, cotton pads (rounds or squares), or a cloth. The frequency of use can be determined by the user and application could be daily or multiple times per day.

[0053] In one aspect, the ingredients of the present disclosure are useful in sunscreen applications. Sunscreens contain ingredients intended to block UV radiation from reaching the skin. UV blockers can be physical such as or chemical salts like ZnO or TiO₂ or chemical (max authorized level indicated) such as Butyl Methoxydibenzoylmethane (5%); Octocrylene (10%); Titanium dioxide (25%); Ethylhexyl Salicylate (5%); Ethylhexyl Methoxycinnamate (10%); Bis-ethylhexyloxyphenol Methoxyphenyl Triazine (10%); Emulsions of the present disclosure can be used with any type of UV blocker know in the art or mixtures of UV blockers.

Blend

[0054] As used herein, the term "blend" refers to a physical mixture of two or more substances. In one aspect the present invention comprises a blend of carrageenans useful for preparations of the personal care composition described herein. Advantageously, the personal care compositions of the present invention are manufactured using a blend comprising or consisting of between 23 to 34 wt% kappa carrageenan; between 29 to 37 wt% iota carrageenan; between 12 to 20 wt% lambda carrageenan; between 2 to 8 wt% mu carrageenan; and between 12 to 19 wt% nu carrageenan.

[0055] The carrageenan blend can additionally contain other dry ingredients if desired in the final personal care composition such as texturizers, colorants, flavors, fragrances, and the like. In one aspect the blend further comprises a texturizer. Texturizers including but not limited to cellulose and its derivatives, synthetic polymers like acrylates and carbomer,

scleroglucan, and xanthan gum are useful in the present invention. Texturizers can be present in any useful or desired amount.

[0056] The blend can be prepared according to blending methods for dry ingredients that are known in the art. Use of a standard mixing equipment for a sufficient time will easily prepare the blends described herein.

Example 1:

[0057] A mixture of 1% by weight kappa type carrageenan VPC 614 from Cargill Incorporated and 0.45% by weight of Euxyl K712 preservative was prepared in water by mixing at room temperature.

Example 2:

Materials	Amount Wt%	Source
Demineralized Water	Q.S 100	
Rosa Damascena Flower Water	60	Aroma-Zone
VPC 430 (lamda carrageenan)	.70	Cargill Incorporated
VPC 508 (iota carrageenan)	.20	Cargill Incorporated
VPC 614 (kappa carrageenan)	.1	Cargill Incorporated
Glycerol	2.5	Cargill Incorporated
Euxyl K712	1%	Schülke & Mayr GmbH
Citric Acid 50% aqueous solution	0.05 (Q.S. pH 5.5)	Merck

Step 1: The aqueous phase of demineralized water and rose water was prepared and heated to approximately 70°C.

Step 2: Carrageenans were added slowly while mixing was continued and after addition the solution mixed for 5 minutes with a UltraTurrax set at 5000 rpms.

Step 3: The glycerol was added and the mixture was stirred for 3 minutes with a UltraTurrax set at 5000 rpms.

Step 4: The aqueous potassium sorbate and sodium benzoate was added the stirring continued until a homogenous mixture obtained. The pH was adjusted to between 5.0 and 5.5 by addition of 50% citric acid solution.

[0058] The resulting product was a slightly viscous gel that could still be easily pumped. It has a pleasant watery break upon application.

Example 3:

Materials	Amount Wt%
Demineralized Water	Q.S 100
VPC 430 (lamda carrageenan)	.70
VPC 508 (iota carrageenan)	.20
VPC 614 (kappa carrageenan)	.1
Aq. Potassium Sorbate/Sodium Benzoate	0.15%/0.30%
Citric acid 50% aqueous solution	Q.S. pH 5.5

[0059] The process of Example 2 was followed (absent the addition of glycerol) to make the product of Example 3. This slightly viscous gel was evaluated for its ability to smooth and tighten human skin. Tightening and smoothing evaluation was performed with Polytec TMS-500 light interferometer using topography analysis. Polytec TMS 3.8 software was used to evaluate the surface microrelief of the skin explants before and 10 minutes after a single application (2mg/cm²) of the composition of Example 2. Skin explants contain a measurable topography of high and low points as well as deeper microfolds. In evaluating smoothing the polytech instrument is used to measure the change in high and low points of the skin sample after application of the test compound. In evaluating tightening effect, the instrument is used to measure the width of microfolds in the skin sample before and after application of the test compound.

Results

[0060] After application of the sample of Example 1 and upon measurement after 10 minutes there was observed 40 percent improvement in skin smoothness. In addition and 10 minutes post application the sample of Example 1, the median width of microfolds was reduced from 153 μ m to 126 μ m (16%). In addition, the tightening affect was observed by 81% of individuals in a sensory panel.

[0061] After application of the sample of Example 2, there was a surprising and immediate improvement in skin smoothness of 11%. In addition, the median width of microfolds was reduced from 147 μ m to 129 μ m (11%) demonstrating a tightening effect. In addition, the tightening affect was observed by 74% of individuals in a sensory panel. This formula can therefore be used as a visual eraser to visibly smooth the skin and reduce fine lines.

[0062] Importantly, these effects were observed with a serum formula with pleasant texture, stability, and spreadability. Use of kappa type carrageenan alone may be difficult. Typically, creating an acceptable formulation with kappa type carrageenan alone is difficult because at levels necessary to thicken the formula syneresis becomes a problem. Syneresis is the contraction of a gel with concomitant separation of liquid. So while a kappa type carrageenan maybe used alone in a formulation, at elevated concentrations the gel will experience syneresis over time.

Stability

[0063] Stability is evaluated visually by observing the stability of the personal care formulation over time. The formulation fails if the phases separate or begin to separate. Major pooling of oil or water droplets on the surface or a significant change in the visual color or texture of the samples would also indicate failure of the formulation. In addition, viscosity could be rechecked and significant decrease (>20%) would indicate failure of the formulation.

[0064] The blended carrageenan containing formulations disclosed herein have good stability, with little or no breakdown or separation between phases over an extended period of time (e.g., 4, 8, or 12 weeks) when measured at room temperature and at 45°C. Therefore, it may be used to make products (e.g., topical formulations) requiring a long shelf life.

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A topical formulation comprising a carrageenan component wherein the carrageenan component comprises a carrageenan selected from group consisting of:
 - a) a kappa type carrageenan;
 - b) an iota type carrageenan;
 - c) a lambda type carrageenan; and
 - d) mixtures thereof;wherein the carrageenan component comprises between 0.2 and 3 wt% of the topical formulation and the topical formulation is used for tightening or smoothing the skin.
2. The topical formulation of Claim 1 where in the carrageenan is a mixture of a kappa type carrageenan, an iota type carrageenan, and a lambda type carrageenan.
3. The topical formulation of Claim 1 where in the carrageenan is a kappa type carrageenan.
4. A method of tightening or smoothing the skin of a human comprising applying to the skin a topical formulation comprising a carrageenan selected from group consisting of:
 - a) a kappa type carrageenan;
 - b) an iota type carrageenan;
 - c) a lambda type carrageenan;
 - d) and mixtures thereof;wherein the carrageenan component comprises between 0.2 and 3 wt% of the topical formulation.
5. The method of Claim 4 where in the carrageenan is a mixture of a kappa type carrageenan, an iota type carrageenan, and a lambda type carrageenan.
6. The method of Claim 4 where in the carrageenan is a kappa type carrageenan.

7. A method of smoothing the skin of a human comprising applying to the skin a topical formulation comprising a carrageenan selected from group consisting of:
- a) a kappa type carrageenan;
 - b) an iota type carrageenan;
 - c) a lambda type carrageenan; and
 - d) mixtures thereof;
- wherein the carrageenan component comprises between 0.2 and 3 wt% of the topical formulation.
8. The method of Claim 7 where in the carrageenan is a mixture of a kappa type carrageenan, an iota type carrageenan, and a lambda type carrageenan.
9. The method of Claim 7 where in the carrageenan is a kappa type carrageenan

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/US2023/017079
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61Q19/00 C08B37/00 A61K8/9717 A61K47/36
ADD.

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)
A61K A61Q C08B

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)
EPO-Internal, 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>Martina: "What's the Role of Carrageenan in Skin Care?", , 9 February 2021 (2021-02-09), XP93058602, Retrieved from the Internet: URL:https://www.glovesinabottle.com/blogs/news/carrageenan-in-skin-care [retrieved on 2023-06-28] the whole document</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----- -/--</p>	1-9

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

<p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"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)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>	<p>"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</p> <p>"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</p> <p>"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</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 28 June 2023	Date of mailing of the international search report 06/07/2023
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Schnack, Anne
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2023/017079

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	<p>PURNAMAWATI SCHANDRA ET AL: "The Role of Moisturizers in Addressing Various Kinds of Dermatitis: A Review", CLINICAL MEDICINE AND RESEARCH, vol. 15, no. 3-4, 1 December 2017 (2017-12-01), pages 75-87, XP055920863, US ISSN: 1539-4182, DOI: 10.3121/cmr.2017.1363 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5849435/pdf/0150075.pdf> page 77, column 1, paragraph first full -----</p>	1-9
Y	<p>AFROZ JAHAN ET AL: "Algal bioactive compounds in the cosmeceutical industry: a review", PHYCOLOGIA., vol. 56, no. 4, 29 March 2017 (2017-03-29), pages 410-422, XP055621181, GB ISSN: 0031-8884, DOI: 10.2216/15.58.1 page 416, last paragraph - page 417, paragraph first -----</p>	1-9
X	<p>US 6 572 868 B1 (COPE SANDRA E [US]) 3 June 2003 (2003-06-03) column 3, line 6 - line 39 -----</p>	1-9
X,P	<p>SHAFIE MUHAMMAD HAKIMIN ET AL: "Application of Carrageenan extract from red seaweed (Rhodophyta) in cosmetic products: A review", JOURNAL OF THE INDIAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, vol. 99, no. 9, 1 September 2022 (2022-09-01), page 100613, XP93058614, IN ISSN: 0019-4522, DOI: 10.1016/j.jics.2022.100613 the whole document -----</p>	1-9
Y	<p>HILLEBRAND G G ET AL: "New wrinkles on wrinkling: an 8-year longitudinal study on the progression of expression lines into persistent wrinkles", BRITISH JOURNAL OF DERMATOLOGY, JOHN WILEY, HOBOKEN, USA, vol. 162, no. 6, 22 February 2010 (2010-02-22), pages 1233-1241, XP071099779, ISSN: 0007-0963, DOI: 10.1111/J.1365-2133.2010.09709.X page 1238 -----</p>	1-9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2023/017079

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6572868	B1	03-06-2003	NONE
