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(54) **Titre : COMPOSITION D'ECRAN SOLAIRE COMPRENANT DE LA CELLULOSE NANOCRISTALLINE**
(54) **Title: SUNSCREEN COMPOSITION COMPRISING NANOCRYSTALLINE CELLULOSE**

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

The present invention is directed to a sunscreen composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, (i) at least one sunscreen agent, and (ii) nanocrystalline cellulose.

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SUNSCREEN COMPOSITION COMPRISING NANOCRYSTALLINE CELLULOSE

Technical field

5 The present invention relates to fluid compositions for protecting the skin from the effects of ultraviolet radiations, hereinafter designated as "sunscreen" or "photoprotective" compositions. This invention relates more especially to sunscreen compositions with improved properties, namely homogeneity, fluidity and transparency on the skin.

Background of the invention

10 - related prior art

It is well known that ultraviolet radiation from the sun can have damaging effects on the skin and the hair. The wavelengths from 210 to 280 nm are stopped by the ozone layer, they are known as UV-C rays. The wavelengths from 280 to 400 nm pass through the ozone layer. Between 280 and 320 nm the rays are known as UV-B, whereas UV-A rays relate to the wavelengths between 320 and 400 nm.

15 UV-A and UV-B correspond to the rays that allow the tanning of the skin. However, when the exposure is too important or the skin too sensitive, these rays may induce impairments of the skin, such as skin burns or erythema. At medium and long term, they may also induce a premature aging by promoting a loss of skin elasticity and the appearance of wrinkles. In more severe cases, they may lead to skin cancers.

It is thus desirable to screen out both UV-A and UV-B to protect the skin from these damages.

20 To date, many photoprotective cosmetic compositions have been proposed to screen out UV-A and/or UV-B, but there is still an increasing demand for very fluid sunscreen compositions having good cosmetic properties and providing a high protection against UV radiations.

25 The protection intensity provided by a sunscreen composition is usually expressed by the sun protection factor or SPF. It is a measure of the dose of UV radiation required to produce sunburn on protected skin, i.e. on which a sunscreen has been applied, relative to the dose of radiation required to produce sunburn on unprotected skin.

- Problem with prior art:

30 Photoprotective compositions usually comprise at least one ultraviolet screening agent.

Said at least one ultraviolet screening agent may be chosen from lipophilic and/or hydrophilic organic compounds capable of selectively absorbing wavelengths. The degree of UV protection afforded by a composition is directly related to the amount and type of sunscreen agents present: the higher the concentration, the greater the protection. Besides, the combination of several UV screening agents makes

it possible to cover the wider range of wavelengths. Thus, to reach high SPF compositions, it is usually necessary to add large quantities of several organic screening agents.

However, when the amounts of these organic compounds are too important, the composition loses its cosmetic qualities. It may result in impairments of comfort and cause a greasy and/or tacky feeling.

5

- Solutions from the prior art

One solution known from the prior art to counterbalance this oily effect consists in using mineral sunscreens, either in combination with organic sunscreen, or alone. Mineral sunscreens such as titanium dioxide or zinc oxide are well appreciated because they allow to efficiently reaching a high SPF without producing the above-mentioned drawbacks of organic sunscreens.

However, mineral sunscreens are characterized by a high refractive index, which produces a whitening effect on the skin during application. Also, when they are present in large amounts, mineral sunscreen may agglomerate and create clusters in the composition. This phenomenon accentuates the whitening effect of the compositions and may leave residues on the skin. Moreover, the viscosity of the composition rises when the concentration of mineral sunscreen increases.

As a consequence, the use of mineral filters in photoprotective compositions does not allow formulators to add other powders, such as texture enhancing or optical effect particles in order to enhance the skin feel or produce an optical immediate effect, , because they would accentuate these phenomena.

- unfulfilled need

Thus, the use of mineral UV screening agents implies many limitations in terms of formulation. Thereby, there remains a need for having photoprotective compositions with a high SPF exhibiting a good fluidity and homogeneity, with limited whitening effect on the skin.

Aims and advantages of the invention

The inventors have discovered that the incorporation of nanocrystalline cellulose, also referred to as NCC, in photoprotective compositions allows to overcome the abovementioned drawbacks of the prior art. The inclusion of nanocrystalline cellulose does not thicken the compositions according to the invention. It does not alter the transparency, and allows improving the homogeneity of compositions comprising mineral filters.

Thus, one aim of the present invention is to provide sunscreen compositions with satisfactory photoprotective properties.

Another aim of the invention is to provide fluid serum-type sunscreen compositions without drop or increase of the viscosity over time.

Another aim of the invention is to provide sunscreen compositions with satisfactory transparency of the film applied on the skin, causing very low whitening and thus being not detectable to human eye.

Another aim of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition with a good homogeneity.

- 5 The term "fluid composition" means a composition that is not in a solid form at room temperature (25°C) and atmospheric pressure ($1,013.10^5$ Pa).

Summary of the invention

10 The present invention is therefore directed to a sunscreen composition, in a physiologically acceptable medium, comprising at least one UV screening agent and nanocrystalline cellulose.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose, wherein said nanocrystalline cellulose is a functionalized nanocrystalline cellulose.

15 Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising functionalized nanocrystalline cellulose, wherein said functionalized nanocrystalline cellulose is carboxylated nanocrystalline cellulose.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising carboxylated nanocrystalline cellulose, wherein said carboxylated nanocrystalline cellulose is in the form of a nanocrystalline cellulose carboxylate salt.

20 Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose carboxylate salt, wherein said nanocrystalline cellulose carboxylate salt is a nanocrystalline cellulose sodium carboxylate.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose sodium carboxylate, wherein said nanocrystalline cellulose sodium carboxylate is produced by the method comprising the steps of:

- 25 a) providing cellulose,
b) mixing said cellulose with a peroxide, thereby producing a reaction mixture,
c) heating the reaction mixture, and/or exposing the reaction mixture to UV radiation, and
d) salifying the reaction mixture.

30 Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose, wherein said nanocrystalline cellulose has a spherical or ovoid shape.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose, wherein said nanocrystalline cellulose has an average particle size of less than about 20 μm , preferably from 2 μm to 10 μm . The average particle size is the particle size distribution D50, also known as the median diameter or the medium value of the particle size distribution, it is the value of the particle

diameter at 50% in the cumulative distribution. The particle size distribution is determined by Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM).

Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline
5 cellulose, wherein said nanocrystalline cellulose has an oil uptake of less than 70 mL for 100 g of nanocrystalline cellulose.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose, wherein said nanocrystalline cellulose has an oil uptake of from 35 to 65 mL for 100 g of nanocrystalline cellulose, more preferably from 40 to 60 mL for 100 g of nanocrystalline cellulose.

10 Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose, wherein said nanocrystalline cellulose is present in an amount of from about 0.1% to about 50%, preferably from 0.2% to 30%, more preferably from 0.5% to 10%.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose and at least one sunscreen agent, wherein the at least one sunscreen agent is selected from
15 mineral sunscreen agents and/or organic sunscreen agents.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose and at least mineral sunscreen agent, wherein the at least mineral sunscreen agent is selected from zinc oxide and/or titanium dioxide.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline
20 cellulose and comprising a water phase and an oily phase.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose, wherein said sunscreen composition comprises at least one surfactant.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline
25 cellulose, wherein said sunscreen composition is surfactant-free.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose, wherein said composition comprises at least one humectant.

30 Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose, wherein said composition comprises at least one emollient.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose, wherein wherein the photoprotection composition further comprises at least one ingredient
35 chosen from preservatives, cosmetic active ingredients, moisturizers, alcohol and/or fragrances.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sunscreen composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose, wherein said sunscreen composition is in the form of a gel, a lotion, a serum.

5 Other characteristics, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent on reading the detailed description which follows.

Detailed description

The cosmetic compositions according to the present invention comprise nanocrystalline cellulose, also referred to as "NCC". Nanocrystalline cellulose is derived from native cellulose from which the
10 amorphous part is removed to keep only the crystalline part.

According to the present invention, the amorphous part of native cellulose is advantageously removed by oxidative hydrolysis of native cellulose using a peroxide, such as hydrogen peroxide, an organic peroxide or a mixture thereof. This process of dissolution of the amorphous part of native cellulose using a peroxide produces nano-crystallites of cellulose, which are then assembled into larger particles
15 corresponding to said nanocrystalline cellulose or NCC.

According to a first embodiment of the present invention, said nanocrystalline cellulose is functionalized, i.e. it has undergone a surface modification to produce functionalized nanocrystalline cellulose.

According to a preferred embodiment, said functionalized nanocrystalline cellulose is a carboxylated nanocrystalline cellulose.

20 Advantageously, carboxylated nanocrystalline cellulose may undergo total or partial salification to produce nanocrystalline cellulose carboxylate salt.

According to another embodiment, the nanocrystalline cellulose carboxylate salt according to the present invention is produced by the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing cellulose,
- 25 b) mixing said cellulose with a peroxide, thereby producing a reaction mixture,
- c) heating the reaction mixture, and/or exposing the reaction mixture to UV radiation, and
- d) salifying the reaction mixture.

According to another embodiment, the assemblage of nano-crystallites of cellulose into particles of
30 nanocrystalline cellulose is achieved by spray-drying.

According to another embodiment, said particles of nanocrystalline cellulose have a spherical or ovoid shape, or a mixture thereof.

According to another embodiment, nanocrystalline cellulose has an average particle size of less than 20 μm , preferably less than 15 μm , more preferably between 2 μm and 10 μm .

35 According to another embodiment, nanocrystalline cellulose has an oil uptake of less than 70 mL/100g, preferably between 35 and 65 mL/100g, and more preferably between 40 and 60 mL/100g. The oil uptake

characterizes the ability to adsorb castor oil. It is determined by adding castor oil to 100 g of nanocrystalline cellulose powder. The oil uptake corresponds to the minimal amount of castor oil, in milliliters, required to obtain a firm and homogeneous paste with 100 g of powder.

- According to another embodiment, nanocrystalline cellulose has a contact angle with water between 80° and 100°, preferably between 85° and 95°, and more preferably between 88° and 92°.

Preferentially nanocrystalline cellulose used in the present invention is nanocrystalline cellulose obtained by the process described in the disclosure of patent application WO 2016/015148.

- The compositions according to the inventions may comprise a water phase and an oily phase.

According to one embodiment, the compositions according to the inventions are in the form of an emulsion.

- According to one embodiment, the compositions of the invention may comprise at least one surfactant. As emulsifying surfactants that may be used, mention may be made of sorbitan, glycerol or sugar alkyl esters or ethers, such as polyglyceryl isostearate, sorbitan isostearate, polysorbate-65; silicone surfactants such as dimethicone copolyol and alky dimethicone copolyol such as lauryl dimethicone.

- According to one particular embodiment, the compositions of the invention are surfactant-free.

The compositions according to the invention comprise at least one UV screening agent which may be chosen from mineral and/or organic sunscreen agents.

- Examples of mineral sunscreen agents include pigments and nanopigments formed from metal oxides. Among metal oxides, mention may be made of titanium oxide, iron oxide, zinc oxide, zirconium oxide and cerium oxide, which are all well-known as UV photoprotective agents.

The mineral sunscreen agents may be surface coated.

30

Among the surface-coatings that may be used in the present invention, mention may be made of aluminium hydroxide; alumina; polyurethane derivatives; polyquaternium derivatives; silicone derivatives such as triethoxycaprylsilane (OTS coating from Daito Kasei), triethoxysilylethyl polydimethylsiloxylethylhexyl dimethicone, acrylates/dimethicone copolymer (FSA coating from Daito

Kasei), methicone or dimethicone; amino-acid derivatives or N-acylamino acids or salts thereof such as sodium lauroyl glutamate, sodium lauroyl aspartate, lysine, disodium stearyl glutamate, lauroyl lysine; fluoro derivatives such as perfluoroalkylsilanes, perfluoroalkylsilazanes, perfluoroalkyl phosphates, C9-C15 fluoroalcohol phosphates; lecithin derivatives such as hydrogenated lecithin; alkyl titanated
 5 derivatives such as isopropyl titanium triisostearate; silica; silicates such as potassium aluminium silicate; fatty acid derivative such as stearic acid; metallic soaps such as aluminium dimyristate, aluminium stearate, magnesium myristate, metal oxides such as titanium dioxide, zinc oxide or iron oxide; and mixture thereof.

In a preferred embodiment, the compositions according to the invention comprise nanopigments of
 10 titanium dioxide and/or zinc oxide.

Examples of organic sunscreens include dibenzoylmethane derivatives; cinnamic acid derivatives; salicylates derivatives; para-aminobenzoic acids; β,β' -diphenylacrylate derivatives; benzophenone derivatives; benzylidenecamphor derivatives; phenylbenzimidazole derivatives; triazine derivatives;
 15 phenylbenzotriazole derivatives; anthranilic acid derivatives, and mixtures thereof. All of them may be encapsulated.

Non-limiting examples of organic filters that may be used in the present invention include those having the INCI names Benzophenone-1, Benzophenone-2, Benzophenone-3, Benzophenone-4, Benzophenone-
 20 5, Benzophenone-6, Benzophenone-8, Benzophenone-9, butyl methoxydibenzoylmethane (commercially available from HOFFMANN LA ROCHE under the trade name of Parsol 1789), octyl methoxycinnamate (commercially available from HOFFMANN LA ROCHE under the trade name of Parsol MCX), cinoxate, terephthalylidene dicamphor sulphonic acid, 3-benzylidene Camphor, Camphor Benzalkonium
 Methosulfate, Bis-Ethylhexyloxyphenol Methoxyphenyl Triazine, Diethylamino Hydroxybenzoyl Hexyl
 25 Benzoate, Diisopropyl Methyl Cinnamate, 1-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-4,4-Dimethyl-1,3-Pentadiene, Disodium Phenyl Dibenzimidazole Tetrasulfonate, Drometrizole trisiloxane, Ethylhexyl Dimethoxybenzylidene Dioxoimidazolidine Propionate, Ethylhexyl Dimethyl PABA, Ethylhexyl Methoxycinnamate, Ethylhexyl Salicylate, Ethylhexyl Triazone, Ferulic Acid, 4-(2-Beta-Glucopyranosiloxy) Propoxy-2-Hydroxybenzophenone, Glyceryl Ethylhexanoate Dimethoxycinnamate,
 30 Homosalate, Isoamyl p-Methoxycinnamate, Isopentyl Trimethoxycinnamate Trisiloxane, Isopropyl Methoxycinnamate, Menthyl Anthranilate, 4-Methylbenzylidene Camphor, Methylene Bis-Benzotriazolyl Tetramethylbutylphenol, Octocrylene, PABA, PEG-25 PABA, Pentyl Dimethyl PABA, Phenylbenzimidazole Sulfonic Acid and its salts, Polyacrylamidomethyl Benzylidene Camphor,
 35 Polysilicone-15, Potassium Phenylbenzimidazole Sulfonate, Sodium Phenylbenzimidazole Sulfonate, TEA-Phenylbenzimidazole Sulfonate, TEA Salicylate, Terephthalylidene Dicamphor Sulfonic Acid, and mixtures thereof.

The compositions according to the inventions may also comprise at least one humectant. Non-limiting example include glycerol derivatives such as glycerin, butylene glycol, propylene glycol, caprylyl glycol; urea derivatives; lactic acid derivatives.

- 5 The compositions according to the invention may comprise at least one emollient which may be chosen from liquid oils.

The term "liquid" refers to compounds in a liquid state at room temperature (i.e. 20°C) and atmospheric pressure (i.e. 1.013×10^5 Pa).

- 10 The term "oil" refers to any compound that is not miscible in water and which is liquid at room temperature (i.e. 20°C) and atmospheric pressure (i.e. 1.013×10^5 Pa).

The liquid binder phase advantageously includes at least one non-volatile oil, which may be hydrocarbon-based oil, silicone-based oil or a mixture thereof. The oils according to the invention may be synthetic or from natural origin.

- 15 The term "non-volatile oil" is understood to mean any liquid oil which is not capable of evaporating on contact with the skin, and thus remaining on the skin.

The term "hydrocarbon-based oils" means oils mainly containing carbon atoms and hydrogen atoms, and which may also comprise one or more functional group selected from alcohol, ether, ester, fluoro and/or carboxylic acid groups.

- 20 The term "silicone-based oils" means oils containing silicon atoms but also oxygen, carbon and hydrogen atoms. Silicone-based oils may also comprise one or more functional group such as alcohol, ether, ester, fluoro and/or carboxylic acid groups.

- 25 - Silicone-based oils include but are not limited to linear and cyclic non-volatile polydimethylsiloxanes, polymethylphenylsiloxanes, phenyl dimethicones, phenyl trimethicones; polysiloxanes modified with fatty acids fatty alcohols, alkylene oxyalkylene groups or, amine group; fluorosilicones or perfluoro silicone oils;

- Hydrocarbon-based oils include hydrocarbon oils, esters of fatty acids, fatty alcohols, fatty acids and/or vegetable oils.

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- Hydrocarbon oils which may be linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, such as liquid paraffins, mineral oil, squalane, squalene, polydecenes, polybutenes and derivatives;

- 35 - Esters of fatty acids of general formula R_1COOR_2 wherein R_1 represents a linear or branched fatty acid residue containing from 1 to 40 carbon atoms, preferably from 1 to 30 carbon atoms, more preferably

from 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and R2 represents a hydrocarbon-based chain which may be linear or branched too, and containing from 1 to 40 carbon atoms. These two carbon chains may be saturated or unsaturated. The esters may also contain a polyalkylene glycol branching such as polypropylene glycol or polyethylene glycol branching, for example PPG-2 myristyl ether propionate. The compositions according to the invention may also comprise polyesters, i.e. compounds comprising more than one ester functional group such as diesters or triesters. Mention may be made of triglycerides formed by esterification of glycerol such as caprylic/capric triglyceride; esters of polyglycerin such as polyglyceryl-2 triisostearate; triethylhexanoin, dicaprylyl carbonate or octyldodecyl stearyl stearate. The acid residue may also be cyclic, such as in esters of benzoic acid or esters of salicylic acid.

Suitable fatty acid esters include without limitation isononyl isononanoate, isopropyl myristate, 2 ethylhexyl palmitate, hexyl laurate, diisostearyl malate, C12-15 Alkyl Ethylhexanoate, cetyl ethylhexanoate, octyl stearate, isodecyl neopentanoate, isostearyl palmitate, alkyl benzoates, butyl acetate, butyl isostearate, butyl oleate, butyl octyl oleate, cetyl palmilale, cetyl oclanoate, cetyl laurate, cetyl lactate, cetyl isononanoate, cetyl stearate, diisostearyl fumarate, diisostearyl malate, neopentyl glycol dioctanoate, dibutyl sebacate, di-C12-13 alkyl malate, dicetearyl dimer dihnoleate, dicetyl adipate, dusocetyl adipate, dusononyl adipate, dusopropyl dunerate, triisostearyl trihnoleate, octodecyl stearyl stearate, hexyl laurate, hexadecyl isostearate, hexydecyl laurate, hexyldecyl octanoate, hexyldecyl oleate, hexyldecyl palmitate, hexyldecyl stearate, isononyl isononanoate, isostearyl isononate, isohexyl neopentanoate, isohexadecyl stearate, isopropyl isostearate, n-propyl myristate, isopropyl myristate, n-propyl palmitate, isopropyl palmitate, hexacosanyl palmitate, lauryl lactate, octacosanyl palmitate, propylene glycol monolaurate, triacontanyl palmitate, dotriacontanyl palmitate, tetratriacontanyl palmitate, hexacosanyl stearate, octacosanyl stearate, triacontanyl stearate, dotriacontanyl stearate, stearyl lactate, stearyl octanoate, stearyl heptanoate, stearyl stearate, tetratriacontanyl stearate, triarachidin, tributyl citrate, triisostearyl citrate, tri-C[12-13]-alkyl citrate, tricapryln, tricaprylyl citrate, tridecyl behenate, trioctyldodecyl citrate, tridecyl cocoate, tridecyl isononanoate, glyceryl monoricinoleate, 2-octyldecyl palmitate, 2-octyldodecyl myristate or lactate, di(2-ethylhexyl) succinate, tocopheryl acetate, tripropylene glycol dineopentanoate, cetyl octanoate, cetyl isooctanoate, octyldodecyl myristate, isopropyl palmitate, cetyl palmitate, butyl stearate, hexyl laurate, myristyl myristate, decyl oleate, hexyldecyl dimethyloctanoate, cetyl lactate, myristyl lactate, acetylated lanolin, isocetyl stearate, isocetyl isostearate, cholesteryl 12-hydroxystearate, ethylene glycol di-2-ethylhexanoate, dipentaerythritol fatty acid ester, N-alkylglycol monoisostearate, neopentyl glycol dicaprylate, glyceryl di-2-heptylundecanoate, trimethylolpropane tri-2-ethylhexanoate, trimethylolpropane triisostearate, pentaerythritol tetra-2-ethylhexanoate, glyceryl tri-2-ethylhexanoate, glyceryl trioctanoate, glyceryl triisopalmitate, trimethylolpropane triisostearate, cetyl 2-ethylhexanoate, glyceryl trimyristate, glyceride tri-2-heptylundecanoate, castor oil fatty acid methyl ester, oleyl oleate, acetoglyceride, 2-heptylundecyl palmitate, diisobutyl adipate, N-lauroyl-L-glutamic acid-2-octyldodecyl ester, di-2-heptylundecyl adipate, ethyl laurate, di-2-ethylhexyl sebacate, 2-hexyldecyl myristate, 2-hexyldecyl palmitate, 2-hexyldecyl adipate, diisopropyl sebacate, 2-ethylhexyl succinate, triethyl citrate, bis-behenyl/isostearyl/phytosteryl

dimer dilinoleyl dimer dilinoleate, phytosteryl/behenyl/octyldodecyl/isostearyl lauroyl glutamate, caprylic/capric triglyceride, and triethylhexanoin.

- Fatty alcohols, preferably having from 5 to 40 carbon atoms such as octyldodecanol and oleyl alcohol.

5

- Fatty acids preferably having from 5 to 40 carbon atoms such as linoleic or linolenic acid.

- Vegetable oils and derivatives, such as soybean oil, jojoba oil, olive oil, macadamia oil, liquid butyrospermum parkii (shea butter), castor oil, camellia oil, gardenia oil, avocado oil, coconut oil, argania spinosa kernel oil, corn oil, cottonseed oil, linseed oil, mink oil, soybean oil, grape seed oil, sesame oil, maize oil, rapeseed oil, sunflower oil, peanut oil, teas seed oil, rice bran oil.

10

- Sarcosine derivatives such as isopropyl lauroyl sarcosinate.

15 The composition advantageously comprises at least one volatile oil.

The cosmetic oils that are volatile at ambient temperature especially have a vapour pressure, measured at ambient temperature and atmospheric pressure, ranging from 10-3 mmHg to 300 mmHg (0.266 Pa to 40 000 Pa).

As a volatile oil that can be used in the invention, mention may be made of linear or cyclic silicones oils that have a viscosity at ambient temperature of less than 8 cSt and that especially have from 2 to 7 silicon atoms, these silicones optionally comprising alkyl or alkoxy groups having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms. As a volatile silicone oil that can be used in the invention, mention may especially be made of octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, decamethylcyclopentasiloxane, dodecamethylcyclotrihexa-siloxane, heptamethylhexyltrisiloxane, heptamethyl-octyl-trisiloxane, hexamethyldisiloxane, octamethyl-trisiloxane, decamethyltetrasiloxane, dodecamethylpentasiloxane and mixtures thereof.

20

25

As another volatile oil that can be used in the invention, mention may be made of volatile hydrocarbon-based oils having from 8 to 16 carbon atoms and mixtures thereof, and especially C8-C16 branched alkanes such as C8-C16 isoalkanes (also called isoparaffins), isododecane, isodecane, isohexadecane and, linear volatile alkanes from 9 to 14 carbon atoms, such as those sold under the names Vegelight 1214 from Biosynthesis and Cetiol Ultimate from BASF.

30

The compositions according to the present invention may also comprise additional ingredients usually used in cosmetics, such as preserving agents, cosmetic active ingredients, moisturizers, and/or fragrances. The preserving agents that may be used include for example Ammonium silver zinc aluminium silicate, chlorophenesin, potassium sorbate, sodium dehydroacetate, and mixture thereof.

35

Among the cosmetic active ingredients that may be used in the present invention, mention may be made of whitening agents, brightening agents, antioxidant agents, anti-wrinkles agents, antiseborrheic agents, plant extracts, and mixture thereof.

- 5 Non-limiting examples of active ingredients include hyaluronic acid derivatives such as sodium hyaluronate, vitamin derivatives, such as tocopheryl acetate, ascorbic acid derivatives such as ascorbyl glucoside, Niacinamide, Licorice extract, Kalanchoe Pinnata leaf extract, Vanilla Planifolia extract.

Tests of stability and viscosity

- 10 The examples which follow are used to illustrate the invention without however presenting a restrictive character. In these examples, the quantities of ingredients are given in weight percentage compared to the total weight of the composition.

A series of three sunscreen compositions in the form of emulsions have been prepared in order to follow
15 the stability and viscosity. The compositions are given in table 1.

Table 1: compositions of the three emulsions

Ingredients	Composition n°		
	1	2	3
Zinc Oxide	18%	18%	18%
Polyglycerol-6 polyricinoleate	5%	5%	5%
C12-15 Alkyl benzoate	29%	29%	29%
Ethylhexyl methoxycinnamate	6.8%	6.8%	6.8%
Ethylhexyl salicylate	5%	5%	5%
Trimethylpentandiol/adipic acid/glycerin crosspolymer	1%	1%	1%
Neopentylglycol diheptanoate / Propylene Glycol Dibenzoate	1%	1%	1%
Water	22.4%	23.8%	22.4%
Phenylbenzimidazol Sulfonic Acid	2%	2%	2%
Sodium Hydroxide solution (25%w/w)	1%	1.1%	1%
Nanocrystalline Cellulose	1.5%	-	-
Cellulose (Cellulobeads D-5)	-	-	1.5%
Caprylyl glycol	1%	1%	1%
Alcohol	6%	6%	6%
Fragrance	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%

- The stability has been visually evaluated after centrifugation the day after formulating the compositions,
20 and then after spending one month at 45°C.

The viscosities have been measured one day after formulating the compositions with a Brookfield Viscometer using a S02 spindle. The viscosity values in centipoise (cPs) as well as the following parameters: percentage torque, temperature and the speed of the spindle, are given in table 2.

Composition n°	Centrifugation after 1 day	After 1 month at 45°C	Viscosity after 1 day in cPs (%torque, temperature, speed)
1	stable	stable	356 cPs (53.4%, 23.2°C, 60 RPM)
2	stable	stable but unsmooth aspect	457.6 cP (57.2%, 22.3°C, 50 RPM)
3	stable but slight dephasing	stable	428 cP (53.5%, 22.3°C, 50RPM)

The three compositions were stable, although nanocrystalline cellulose gave the most stable composition both after centrifugation and at 45°C during 1 month.

Surprisingly, the inventors have found that the composition comprising nanocrystalline cellulose makes it possible to obtain the most fluid composition.

Moreover, totally unexpectedly, the addition of nanocrystalline cellulose made it possible to obtain a significantly lower viscosity than without the addition of additional powder, corresponding to composition n°2.

Claims

1. A sunscreen composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium,
 - (i) at least one sunscreen agent, and
 - (ii) a functionalized nanocrystalline cellulose,

5 wherein said functionalized nanocrystalline cellulose is carboxylated nanocrystalline cellulose, wherein said functionalized nanocrystalline cellulose is made of nano-crystallites of cellulose assembled into particles of nanocrystalline cellulose, wherein said particles have a spherical or ovoid shape, and wherein said functionalized nanocrystalline cellulose has an average particle size from about 2 μm

10 to about 10 μm .
2. The sunscreen composition according to claim 1 wherein said carboxylated nanocrystalline cellulose is in the form of a nanocrystalline cellulose carboxylate salt.
- 15 3. The sunscreen composition according to claim 2 wherein said nanocrystalline cellulose carboxylate salt is a nanocrystalline cellulose sodium carboxylate.
4. The sunscreen composition according to claim 3 wherein said nanocrystalline cellulose sodium carboxylate is produced by the method comprising the steps of:

20 (a) providing cellulose, and

(b) mixing said cellulose with a peroxide, thereby producing a reaction mixture, and

(c) heating the reaction mixture, and/or

(c') exposing the reaction mixture to UV radiation, and

(d) salifying the reaction mixture.

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5. The sunscreen composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said functionalized nanocrystalline cellulose has an oil uptake of less than 70 mL for 100 g of nanocrystalline cellulose.
- 30 6. The sunscreen composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said functionalized nanocrystalline cellulose has an oil uptake of from 35 to 65 mL for 100 g of nanocrystalline cellulose.
7. The sunscreen composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said functionalized
35 nanocrystalline cellulose has an oil uptake of from 40 to 60 mL for 100 g of nanocrystalline cellulose.

8. The sunscreen composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein said functionalized nanocrystalline cellulose is present in an amount of from about 0.1% to about 50% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.
- 5 9. The sunscreen composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein said functionalized nanocrystalline cellulose is present in an amount of from 0.2% to 30% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.
- 10 10. The sunscreen composition according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said functionalized nanocrystalline cellulose is present in an amount of from 0.5% to 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.
- 15 11. The sunscreen composition according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the at least one sunscreen agent is selected from mineral sunscreen agents and/or organic sunscreen agents.
12. The sunscreen composition according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the at least one sunscreen agent is selected from zinc oxide and/or titanium dioxide.
- 20 13. The sunscreen composition according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein said sunscreen composition comprises a water phase and an oily phase.
14. The sunscreen composition according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein said sunscreen composition comprises at least one surfactant.
- 25 15. The sunscreen composition according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the composition is surfactant-free.
16. The sunscreen composition according to claim 13, wherein said water phase comprises at least one humectant.
- 30 17. The sunscreen composition according to claim 13, wherein said oily phase comprises at least one emollient.
18. The sunscreen composition according to any one of claims 1 to 17, wherein the sunscreen composition further comprises preservatives, cosmetic active ingredients, moisturizers, alcohol, and/or fragrances.
- 35 19. The sunscreen composition according to any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein the sunscreen composition is in the form of a gel, a lotion, or a serum.