

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

ELISÉE CHARLES DUHAMEL, OF ROUBAIX, FRANCE

METHOD OF DEGUMMING FIBERS

No Drawing. Application filed March 15, 1929, Serial No. 347,439, and in France March 5, 1928.

It is a known fact that, before certain textile fibers such, for instance, as ramie can be used for textile purposes they must first of all be de-wooded, that is, separated from the ligneous part, after which the fibers thus de-wooded have to be de-gummed, that is, there must be removed from these fibers that matter by which the various fibers are united to one another.

10 It has already been attempted to perfect such de-gumming either mechanically or chemically. Both methods have failed to give results successful enough to produce a fiber suitable for textile purposes.

15 The present invention has for its object a method of de-gumming ramie and like fibers such as nettle, flax, bark fibers, etc., consisting in allowing concentrated suint to act upon the fibers which may or may not be de-wooded. The concentration of the suint is at least 8° Bé.

The fibers are immersed in this suint liquor which has been brought to a temperature close to that of ebullition. The duration of the contact will vary according to the character of the fibers under treatment.

25 A convenient mode of operation consists in proceeding by short immersions, for instance each of ten minutes' duration, a pressing step being intercalated between any two successive immersions. When the de-gumming process by means of suint is completed, the fibers are submitted to a warm or cold rinsing operation which, if desired, may be complemented by washing with soap, then rinsing anew.

I claim as my invention:

1. A method of de-gumming of textile fibers which consists in immersing said fibers in a hot suint bath.
2. A method of de-gumming of textile fibers which consists in immersing said fibers in a hot suint bath having a concentration of at least 8° Bé, at a temperature close to that of ebullition.

45 In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ELISÉE CHARLES DUHAMEL.