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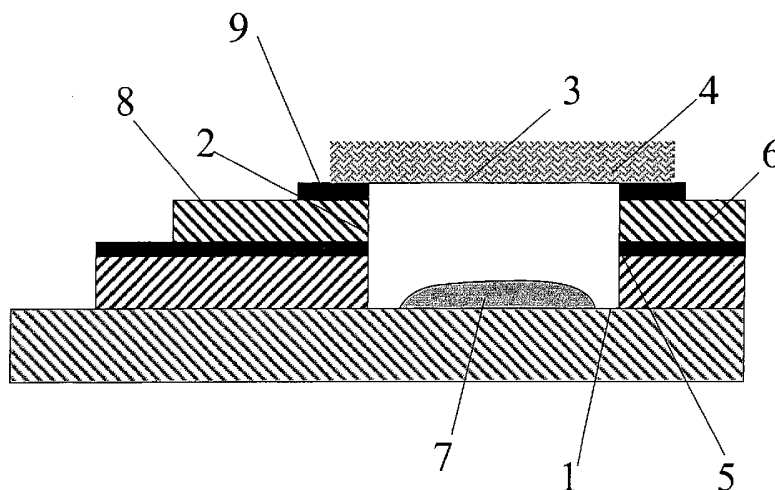
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(54) Title: ELECTROCHEMICAL SENSING METHOD



(57) Abstract: A method of confining an electroactive substance (7) within an electrochemical cell in the form of a receptacle, said method comprising: (a) providing an electrochemical cell in the form of a receptacle, the receptacle having a first open part (3) to allow entry of a sample into the receptacle, and a second open part to allow escape of air displaced by the entering sample, the electrochemical cell having a working electrode (5) 1 and a counter electrode (6); (b) providing an electroactive substance (7), which substance is contained within the receptacle; (c) providing a permeable or semi-permeable membrane (4), comprising one or more layers, covering the first open part of the receptacle; and (d) inserting the sample into the receptacle through the membrane, such that (1) the electroactive substance and (2) the sample, are in contact with each other and with said working electrode; wherein the electroactive is confined within the receptacle during step (d). Preferably, the method additionally involves electrochemically testing a sample, by applying a voltage across the cell and measuring the resulting electrochemical response.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte Application No
PCT/GB2005/002558

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
G01N27/30 C12Q1/00

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)
G01N C12Q

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, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 03/056319 A (OXFORD BIOSENSORS) 10 July 2003 (2003-07-10) cited in the application page 1, line 9 - page 2, line 19 page 6, line 10 - page 11, line 30 figure 1; example 2e	1-14
X	WO 03/074999 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL COMPANY) 12 September 2003 (2003-09-12) page 12, line 12 - page 15, line 15 page 18, line 20 - page 22, line 25 figures 5-8	1-3,5-14
P,X	-& EP 1 482 307 A (...) 1 December 2004 (2004-12-01) paragraph '0058! - paragraph '0069! paragraph '0083! - paragraph '0101! figures 5-8	1-3,5-14

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *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)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *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
- *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
- *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
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 December 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

03/01/2006

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 15
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 15

Rule 6.2(a) PCT: Prohibition of 'omnibus' type claims

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/JP2005/002558

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