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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING** [US/US]; 1000 E. University Avenue, Research Products Center, Laramie, WY 82071 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BASILE, Franco** [US/US]; 1218 W Oak Street, Ft. Collins, CO 80521 (US). **ZHANG, Shaofeng** [CN/US]; 2006 Willet #424, Laramie, WY 82072 (US).

(74) Agent: **HERINK, Kent**; Davis, Brown, Koehn, Shors & Roberts, RC, The Financial Center, 666 Walnut Street, Suite 2500, Des Moines, IA 50309 (US).

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(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for conducting the rapid pyrolysis of peptides, proteins, polymers, and biological materials. The method can be carried out at atmospheric pressures and takes only about 5 to 30 seconds. The samples are cleaved at the C-terminus of aspartic acid. The apparatus employs a probe on which the sample is heated and digested components analyzed.



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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

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<b>A CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>				
IPC <b>GOIN 33/53</b> ( 2006 01),C07K 1/00( 2006 01), <b>C12Q 1/00</b> ( 2006 01), <b>I/37</b> ( 2006 01), <b>A23J 1/00</b> ( 2006 01)				
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<b>B FIELDS SEARCHED</b>				
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U S 435/4,7 1,23,24,287 2,803,530/300,417				
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)				
<b>C DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No		
Y	DeLuca et al, Pyrolysis-Mass Spectrometry Methodology Applied to Southeast Asian Environmental Samples for Differentiating Digested and Undigested Pollens, Anal Chem 1986, Vol 58, pp 2439-2442	7-10		
Y	US 6,908,740 B2 (Vandekerckhove et al) 21 June 2005 (21 06 2005), throughout the patent	7-10		
Y	US 6,600,155 B1, (Andersen et al) 29 July 2003 (29 07 2003), throughout the patent, see abstract, and figures	7-10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex				
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>           * 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 application or patent 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         </td> <td>           "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            "&amp;" document member of the same patent family         </td> </tr> </table>			* 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 application or patent 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
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P O Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No (571) 273-3201		Authorized officer Julie Ha Telephone No 571-272-1600 		