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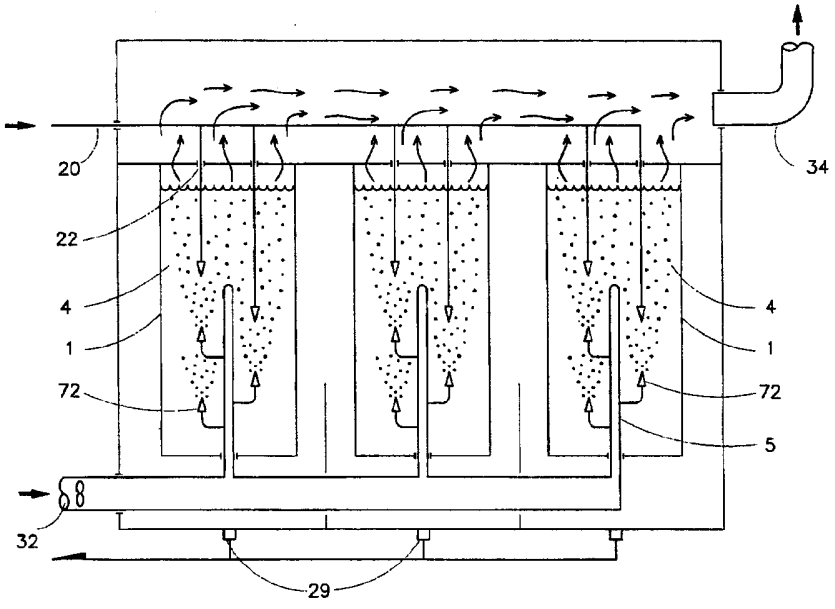
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(54) Abstract Title: **Water treatment**

(57) A method of treating water which comprises, forming a mixture of a particulate natural organic substrate with a flow control component, exposing the water to contact with oxygen containing gas over a large surface area, and causing the water to trickle through a column of the mixture, wherein the particulate natural organic substrate is adapted to support growth of aerobic bacteria and the flow control component is adapted to create a plurality of sinuous pathways for the water trickling through the column.



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