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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except AE, AG, AU, BB, BH, BW, BZ, CA, CY, EG, GB, GD, GH, GM, IE, IL, IN, KE, KN, LC, LK, LS, MW, MY, NA, NG, NZ, OM, PG, SC, SD, SG, SL, SZ, TT, TZ, UG, US, VC, ZA, ZM, ZW): UNILEVER N. V. [NL/NL], Weena455, NL-3013 AL Rotterdam (NL)
(71) Applicant (for AE, AG, AU, BB, BH, BW, BZ, CA, CY, EG, GB, GD, GH, GM, IE, IL, KE, KN, LC, LK, LS, MW, MY, NA, NG, NZ, OM, PG, SC, SD, SG, SL, SZ, TT, TZ, UG, VC, ZA, ZM, ZW only): UNILEVER PLC [GB/GB], Unilever House, Blackfriars, London Greater London EC4P 4BQ (GB)
(71) Applicant (for IN only): HINDUSTAN UNILEVER LIMITED [IN/IN], Hindustan Lever House, 165/166 Backbay Reclamation, Mumbai 400 020 (IN)
(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): FILSELL, Wendy [GB/GB], Unilever R & D Colworth, Sharnbrook Bedfordshire MK44 ILQ (GB) GINGER, Rebecca, Susan [GB/GB], Unilever R & D Colworth, Sharnbrook Bedfordshire MK44 ILQ (GB) GREEN, Martin, Richard [GB/GB], Unilever R & D Colworth, Sharnbrook Bedfordshire MK44 ILQ (GB) JARMAN, Carl, Dudley [GB/GB], Unilever R & D Colworth, Sharnbrook Bedfordshire MK44 ILQ (GB) OGBORNE, Richard, Martin [GB/GB], Unilever R & D Colworth, Sharnbrook Bedfordshire MK44 ILQ (GB) SCHNETKAMP, Paul, P.M. [NL/CA], Departments of Physiology and Biophysics and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4 (CA) WILSON, Stephen [GB/GB], Unilever R & D Colworth, Sharnbrook Bedfordshire MK44 ILQ (GB)
(74) Agent: NEWBOULD, Frazer, Anthony, Unilever Patent Group, Colworth House, Sharnbrook, Bedford MK44 ILQ (GB)

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(54) Title: METHOD OF SCREENING FOR COMPOUNDS THAT ALTER SKIN AND/OR HAIR PIGMENTATION

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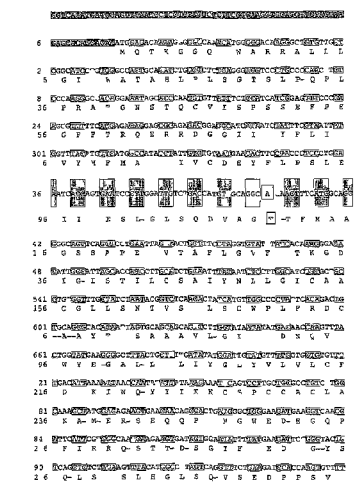
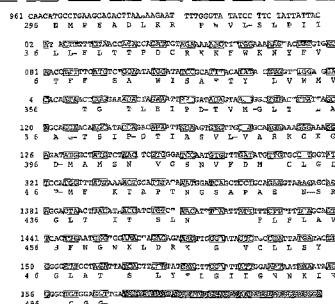


Fig 1(Cont)



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method of identifying compounds that either increase or decrease skin and/or hair pigmentation, the method comprising determining the ability of a test compound to modulate NCKX-mediated calcium ion movement across a membrane (e.g. NCKX5). The method may comprise the steps of exposing a membrane comprising a NCKX molecule or variant, fusion or derivative thereof to a test compound and measuring either directly or indirectly the calcium ion concentration on one or both sides of the membrane. The invention also relates to kits, nucleic acid molecules, polypeptides and cells useful in the method of the invention.

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