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(54) Titre : COMPOSITION PHARMACEUTIQUE ET SA METHODE DE PREPARATION
(54) Title: MACERATION COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR PREPARING SAME

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

The invention concerns a method for preparing a maceration composition made from at least one component selected from the group comprising fruits, vegetables, plants and spices, said method comprising the following steps: · Macerating the component by dipping it into water in order to have the equivalent of 15 to 80 g of component for 1 L of maceration composition, at a temperature of 15°C to 25°C, for a period of 30 to 120 minutes, thus obtaining a solid material in a maceration; · Separating the maceration from the solid material; · Acidifying the maceration and/or the water to obtain a maceration composition having a pH between 3.1 and 3.5. The invention also relates to a maceration composition obtainable according to this method, wherein said maceration comprises between 20 and 40 g/L of sugar. The invention eventually relates to a bottled beverage comprising at least one maceration composition according to the invention.

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(54) Title: MACERATION COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR PREPARING SAME

(57) Abstract: The invention concerns a method for preparing a maceration composition made from at least one component selected from the group comprising fruits, vegetables, plants and spices, said method comprising the following steps: • Macerating the component by dipping it into water in order to have the equivalent of 15 to 80 g of component for 1 L of maceration composition, at a temperature of 15°C to 25°C, for a period of 30 to 120 minutes, thus obtaining a solid material in a maceration; • Separating the maceration from the solid material; • Acidifying the maceration and/or the water to obtain a maceration composition having a pH between 3.1 and 3.5. The invention also relates to a maceration composition obtainable according to this method, wherein said maceration comprises between 20 and 40 g/L of sugar. The invention eventually relates to a bottled beverage comprising at least one maceration composition according to the invention.



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Maceration composition and method for preparing same

Technical Field

5 This invention relates to beverages made from fruits or plants or vegetables. This composition relates to a maceration composition of at least one component selected from the group comprising fruits, vegetables, plants and spices, and to the method for preparing same.

10 Background of the Invention

The consumer is more and more in search of healthy food, having reduced sweetness level while having a pleasant and refreshing taste, and being easily digestible. The consumers are also looking for the most natural products possible in what concerns the
15 base ingredients.

Juice is traditionally a drink made from the extraction or pressing of the natural liquid contained in fruits and vegetables. Juice is usually prepared by mechanically squeezing fruit or vegetable flesh without the application of heat or solvents. After the fruits are
20 picked and washed, the juice is extracted, then filtered and often concentrated in evaporators, which reduce the size of juice by a factor of 5, making it easier to transport and increasing its expiration date. Juices are concentrated by heating under a vacuum to remove water, and then cooling to around 13°C. About two thirds of the water in a juice is removed. Juices are then pasteurized and filled into containers. The juice is then later
25 reconstituted, by mixing the concentrate with water.

Therefore, fruit juices are not considered completely natural products.

Fruit smoothies are popular, remain a healthy food but are generally very sweet.

Scented or flavored waters are very popular with consumers because they are refreshing and perceived as detoxifying. However, when they are flavored with fruit, this is either from fruit juice added in the water or from flavors. Additionally, they need to be consumed in a restricted period when they do not contain preservatives.

5

Some beverages called fruit maceration or infusion are also known to the consumer. Actually, these beverages comprise plant maceration or infusion, fruit juice and flavorings.

10 Infusion is a process in which a hot or boiling liquid, for example water, is poured over the herb, or other botanicals (for example leaves, like tea leaves, flowers or berries) which is then allowed to steep in the liquid for a period of time. The cold resulting drink or a beverage is called infusion.

15 Maceration is a process that allows a solid to remain in a cold liquid to extract the soluble compounds, or to absorb the liquid in order to obtain the perfume or the flavor, to preserve it or for it decomposes there. Maceration can be done in an alcoholic solution (alcoholic maceration), water, brine, or oil. This operation is opposed to the decoction, in which the liquid is kept boiling, and to the infusion in which the liquid is boiled and then
20 cooled. The resulting liquid is also called maceration.

Thus, refreshing beverages such as flavored waters and fruit maceration or infusion still comprise fruit juice and/or flavors, preferably natural flavors, which is not always pleasant to the consumers.

25

Therefore, there is a need for further improvement in and to processes for preparing flavored water products, wherein the products have a consistently desirable and substantially optimized set of organoleptic properties by providing very specific flavor

profile. The present invention fulfills these needs and provides further related advantaged.

Summary of the Invention

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The present inventors have found surprisingly that a maceration method in which the duration, temperature and concentration of the macerated component are controlled, is particularly effective for providing new maceration compositions (liquids) comprising new components having a taste detectable by the consumer.

10

Accordingly, in a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a method for preparing a maceration composition made from at least one component selected from the group comprising fruits, vegetables, plants and spices, said method comprising the following steps:

- 15 - Macerating the component by dipping it in water in order to have the equivalent of 15 to 80 g of component for 1 L of maceration composition, at a temperature of 15°C to 25°C, for a period of 30 to 120 minutes, thus obtaining a solid material in a maceration;
- Separating the maceration from the solid material;
- 20 - Acidifying the maceration and/or the water to obtain a maceration composition having a pH between 3.1 and 3.5.

Preferably, the maceration composition comprises an equivalent of 25 to 50 g of component for 1 L of maceration composition.

25

Additionally, said separating step comprises at least one of the following steps: decanting step, clarifying step, and filtering step.

The maceration composition may further be subjected to a dilution step.

For both, for the macerating step and the dilution step, the water that is used is selected from the group comprising mineral water, spring water, treated water, and tap water.

- 5 During the acidifying step, the maceration and/or the water is acidify with acid citric, malic acid or any other suitable acid.

Furthermore, if needed, the maceration composition is further subjected to a step of mixing with sugar.

10

Preferably, the component is selected from the group comprising apple, banana, pear, lemon, lime, orange, mandarin, grapefruit, kiwi, passion fruit, mango, pomegranate, papaya, peach, apricot, watermelon, melon, strawberry, blackcurrant, currant, gooseberry, raspberry, blueberry, blackberry, cranberry, cherry, grape, white grape, red
15 grape, hibiscus, elderflower, carrot, sugar beet, fennel, cucumber, ginger, mint, spearmint, peppermint, basil, Marseillais basil, Thai basil, rosemary, fenugreek, verbena, sage, thyme, parsley, chamomile , tarragon, spices, cinnamon, cardamom, saffron, lemongrass, cocoa and vanilla.

- 20 In order to avoid the use of preservatives, the maceration composition is further subjected to at least one of the steps of sterilizing and pasteurizing. Alternatively, preservatives may be used in order to increase the shelf life of the maceration composition.

- 25 The maceration composition may further be subjected to at least one step of mixing with at least one additive selected from the group comprising natural coloring foodstuff and flavors.

In a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a maceration composition obtainable according to the method of the invention, wherein said maceration comprises between 20 and 40 g/L of sugar.

- 5 The use of the component in the form of pieces during the macerating step allows advantageously providing a maceration composition in which the component has kept all his gustative properties.

10 This maceration composition is new with respect to known products of the prior art such as fruit juices since they contain products having an influence on the taste of the maceration which are not present in the other products, and especially which are not present in fruit juices.

15 In a third aspect of the invention, there is provided a bottled beverage comprising at least one maceration composition according to the invention.

Detailed description of the invention

20 For a complete understanding of the present invention and the advantages thereof, reference is made to the following detailed description of the invention.

It should be appreciated that various embodiments of the present invention can be combined with other embodiments of the invention and are merely illustrative of the specific ways to make and use the invention, and do not limit the scope of the invention
25 when taken into consideration with the claims and the following detailed description.

In the present description, the following words are given a definition that should be taken into account when reading and interpreting the description, examples and claims.

As used herein, the following terms have the following meanings.

The term “and/or” in “A and/or B” means “A”, or “B”, or “A and B”.

5 The term “made from X” means that X is used in the process.

The term “ambient temperature” means 20-25°C.

10 As used in this specification, the words “comprises”, “comprising”, and similar words, are not to be interpreted in an exclusive or exhaustive sense. In other words, they are intended to mean “including”, but not limited to.

15 Any reference to prior art documents in this specification is not to be considered an admission that such prior art is widely known or forms part of the common general knowledge in the field.

The method for preparing a maceration according to the invention can consist in the steps of macerating and separating. However, the method preferably comprises other steps such as explained below.

20 Preferably the macerating step is carried out at ambient temperature. The macerating step leads to a solution where the liquid (water, generally colored and translucent) and the solid (component which has been able to fall apart and decompose over time) are mixed.

25 The component used for the macerating step can be frozen. Typically, the component has been post-harvest frozen (as the method “IQF, Instant Quick Frozen”, in which the component is frozen within 3 to 4 hours after harvest). In such a case the component is generally thawed, preferably at ambient temperature, before the macerating step.

It can also be envisaged that the component used for the macerating step can be lyophilized.

Preferably the water used for the macerating step is selected from the group comprising
5 mineral water, spring water and treated water. Even tap water could be used.

Depending on its nature, the component is generally cut into pieces, pieces whose largest dimension is generally of the order of a few centimeters. The skilled person is able to choose the size of the pieces of the component depending on its very nature.

10

The component is preferably of organic origin.

The separating step preferably comprises at least one of the following steps: decanting step, clarifying step, and filtering step.

15

As it is known to the skilled person, the decanting step consists usually in the separation of the liquid and the solid. by allowing gravity to pull the solid fragments to settle at the bottom of a container, typically a few hours at ambient temperature. A centrifuge may also be used, forcing the solid to precipitate to the bottom of the container. For example,
20 the centrifuge is an apparatus Rotor SH-3000 swinging, used with a speed of 500 rpm, used at 20°C for 20 minutes.

As it is known to the skilled person, the clarifying step consists usually in the separation of a liquid and a solid, particularly when the solid is cut into small pieces (pieces whose
25 largest dimension is generally of the order of a few millimeters), in order to come to a clear liquid. The clarifying step may use for example a filtration process, a centrifugation process or an enzymatic process making use of enzymes. Usual enzymes used in clarification processes are pectinase, cellulase, hemicellulase or glycosidase. One or more

of these enzymes may be added in the solution, typically a few hours at ambient temperature.

As it is known to the skilled person, the filtering step consists usually in the separation of the liquid and the solid, by the means of a filter, typically a few hours at ambient temperature. The filter can be a strainer or sieve whose perforation size is chosen by the skilled person in view of the component.

According to the invention, the claimed method makes use of an acidifying step. The acid used in the acidifying step can be citric acid, malic acid or any suitable acid.

A step of mixing the maceration composition with sugar may be needed. The addition of sugar may be made such that the final maceration composition comprises between 20 and 40 g/L of sugar.

Preferably according to the invention, the maceration composition is further subjected to at least one of the steps of sterilizing and pasteurizing.

As it is known to the skilled person, the sterilizing step is typically carried out at a temperature of around 110°C during 20 to 40s, e.g. 30s. It leads to eliminate the *Thermophilus Acidophilus* Bacteria (or TAB).

As it is known to the skilled person, the pasteurizing step is usually carried out at 85°C to 95°C, e.g. 88°C or 92°C, for 20 to 50s, e.g. 30 s or 40 s.

Preferably, according to the invention, the maceration composition is further subjected to at least one diluting step with water selected from the group comprising mineral water, spring water, treated water and tap water. The dilution ratio is calculated to have the required component equivalent amount in 1 L of maceration composition.

This is particularly the case when the macerating step is carried out in two series, the first series leading to a maceration that will be considered as “strong” maceration (or concentrated maceration) by the consumer. The strong maceration will need, according
5 to the taste of the consumer, to be further diluted in order that that the taste of the final maceration composition, to be bottled, is acceptable to the consumer.

This can be also the case when, for logistical reasons, it is desired to proceed with the realization of the final maceration composition in two different locations for example. The diluting step but also potentially step(s) of mixing with sugar and/or acid, as well as
10 steps of sterilizing and/or pasteurizing may be performed in another location than the one in which the strong maceration has been produced.

Mineral water such as Vittel® Grande Source is usually water that comes out of the ground naturally and is considered healthy to drink. Spring water is usually water that comes from
15 a natural spring. Both mineral water and spring water generally contains dissolved mineral salts or gases, usually having medicinal properties. A mineral water is coming from unique source whereas a spring water may come from several springs. For example Vittel® is a mineral water whereas Cristaline® is a spring water. Treated water is generally a water that is processed where in a proposed example minerals are added to a reverse
20 osmosis water such as Nestlé Pure Life® or “Vittel water which is “Vittel Grand Source” whose pH has been settled to 3.9.

More specifically, the component is generally selected from the group comprising apple, banana, pear, lemon, lime, orange, mandarin, grapefruit, kiwi, passion fruit, mango,
25 pomegranate, papaya, peach, apricot, watermelon, melon, strawberry, blackcurrant, currant, gooseberry, raspberry, blueberry, blackberry, cranberry, cherry, grape (including white grape and red grape), hibiscus, elderflower, carrot, sugar beet, fennel, cucumber, ginger, mint (including spearmint and peppermint), basil (including Thai basil and Marseillais basil), rosemary, fenugreek, verbena, sage, thyme, parsley, chamomile,

tarragon, and spices (including cinnamon, cardamom, saffron, lemongrass, cocoa and vanilla).

According to the invention, the component is generally selected from the group comprising apple, banana, lemon, lime, orange, mandarin, grapefruit, mango, pomegranate, peach, strawberry, blackcurrant, raspberry, blueberry, cherry, white grape, red grape, elderflower, peppermint, spearmint, Marseillais basil, Thai basil, cinnamon, cardamom, saffron, lemongrass, cocoa and vanilla.

In a preferred embodiment, the bottled beverage of the invention comprises two maceration compositions of the invention. For example, it comprises one mixture selected from the group comprising lemon and raspberry macerations, orange and lemon macerations, Thai basil and orange macerations, lemon and mint macerations, or raspberry and blackcurrant macerations.

Although this is not a preferred embodiment, the maceration composition can further be subjected to at least one step of mixing with at least one additive selected from the group comprising natural coloring foodstuff and preservatives. This additive is generally in small quantity in the maceration. The natural coloring foodstuff can be fruit and/or vegetable juices.

Although the invention has been described by way of example, it should be appreciated that variations and modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the claims. Furthermore, where known equivalents exist to specific features, such equivalents are incorporated as if specifically referred in this specification.

The advantages, nature, and various additional features of the invention will appear more fully upon consideration of the illustrative experiments now to be described in detail in connection with accompanying drawings.

5 In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a graph plotting the results of the sorting test on the lemon maceration composition and on the lemon-mint maceration composition of the invention.

10 FIG. 2 is a graph plotting the results of the sorting test on the strawberry maceration composition of the invention.

Figures 1 and 2 will be described in Example 4 below.

15 The invention is further described with reference to the following examples. It will be appreciated that the invention as claimed is not intended to be limited in any way by these examples.

Example 1: preparation of maceration composition according to the invention using lyophilized fruits

20 The preparation of a maceration composition according to the invention using lyophilized fruits was made.

Name	Quantity g/L
Vittel [®] Grande Source	Qs 1000
Blackcurrant pieces	7
Peach pieces	11
Citric acid	1.5
Sucrose	40

- Dried fruits in a lyophilized form were used.
- The fruits were incorporated in the water that was at ambient temperature.
- The mixture was kept under mild stirring at ambient temperature (20°C-25°C) for 40 to 60 minutes. Then, the product was filtered in order to separate the solid from the liquid. Some citric acid was added so as to have a pH around 3.5.
- Some sugar (sucrose) was then added to the composition.

10 **Example 2: preparation of a strong maceration composition according to the invention**

A preparation of a maceration composition according to the invention made by dilution of a strong maceration composition according to the invention was made.

Preparation of the strong maceration composition

- 15 - 50 g of mixed fruits were added to 50 g of mineral water
- The mixture was stirred up and coverer for 1 hour at ambient temperature.
- Two filtration were made with different filter size.
- A centrifugation (Rotor SH-3000 swinging; 4500 rpm; Acceleration 3; Deceleration 1; T = 20°C; 20 min) of the filtrate was made
- 20 - The pH and Brix of the supernatant was measured.
- pH was adjusted to be below 3.5 using citric acid.
- The resulting strong maceration composition was pasteurized (0.1<pvalue<0.12)

Preparation of a maceration composition using the strong maceration composition

- 25 - 1 to 2g of citric acid were added to 950 g of Vittel Grande Source
- The strong maceration composition was then added to the mixture
- 30 g of powdered sugar were added to form the maceration composition
- The pH and Brix were measured to confirm pH was below 3.5
- The composition was bottled and pasteurized (0.1<pvalue<0.12)

Example 3: preparation of three maceration compositions according to the invention

Three maceration compositions were prepared according to the invention, respectively
5 made from strawberry, lemon and mint (spearmint) as follows.

The maceration compositions were prepared from frozen organic fruit or plant. The fruits
were post-harvest frozen that is to say frozen within 2 to 4h after harvest (IQF “Instant
Quick Frozen” technique). These fruits and plant were thawed just before their use. The
10 thawed fruits were mixed with purified water, in a ratio of approximately 50g/L. The
mixture was kept under mild stirring at ambient temperature (20°C-25°C) for 60 minutes.
Then, the product was filtered with appropriate filter in order to separate the solid from
the liquid. The colored, translucent liquid was mixed with natural mineral water Vittel®.
Some citric acid was added so that the pH is around 3.2. Some sugar (saccharide) was
15 then added so that the total sugar content (including the sugar content from the fruit or
plant) is around 32 g/L. In a final step the final liquid composition, which is the maceration
composition, is rendered aseptic by a treatment at 92°C for 30 seconds.

**Example 4: organoleptic properties of the maceration compositions according to the
invention**

Two sorting tests were carried out, under the same conditions, with a panel of 9 panelists
who were asked to group several beverages, tasted blindly, according to their dominant
taste.

25 A 2 out of 5 tests were also performed, under the same conditions, with a group of
11 panelists.

These tests were performed for strawberry and lemon maceration compositions prepared in example 3, respectively with respect to reconstituted strawberry juice and reconstituted lemon juice.

5 4.1. Lemon maceration composition of Example 3

The sorting test was carried out on the following commercial products bought in France: “Evian citron fleur de sureau” (“Evian lemon elderberry flower”), “Volvic thé vert menthe” (“Volvic green mint tea”), “May tea thé vert menthe” (“May Tea green mint tea”), “Honest citron miel” (“Honest honey lemon”), “Volvic citron zest” (“Volvic lemon zest”), on top of
10 the lemon maceration prepared in example 3, a lemon-mint maceration (which is the mixture of the lemon maceration composition of Example 3 and of the mint maceration composition of Example 3) and reconstituted citron juice. All the products are written in italics. The two macerations of the invention are marked by a star “*” in Figure 1.

15 The axes of the sorting are representations in two dimension of a multidimensional system. The sorting tests show the situation of the products in view of indicators, written in bold (acid, off-note, lemon juice, lemonade, lemon maceration and candy), all indicators were well-known to the panelists before the test. The sorting test show the position of the product one with respect to the others.

20 The results of the sorting test are shown in the two-dimension graph of Figure 1. Three regions are defined, excluding the product “Evian citron fleur de sureau” which is not well represented in this graph since it is characterized by candy and lemonade taste. Each region represents a sensory area. Three sensory areas are clearly disclosed, the first one
25 (1A) comprising the lemon maceration composition and the lemon-mint maceration composition according to the invention, far from the sensory area (1C), which comprises the reconstituted lemon juice, and from the sensory area (1B), which comprises tea products. Reconstituted lemon juice, in sensory area (1C), is perceived more acid and

having an off-taste. Products with tea, in sensory area (1B), are clearly perceived as different in term of taste with respect to the other products.

In conclusion, the lemon maceration composition of the invention and the lemon-mint
5 maceration composition of the invention belong to a different sensory area with respect to the reconstituted lemon juice and to the tea products.

A 2 out of 5 (blind) test was performed to check if the lemon maceration composition of the invention and the reconstituted lemon juice were recognized as different from a taste
10 point of view by naïve panelists blindly. For this, 5 blind samples are proposed to the panelists who have to separate in two groups (2 and 3) those which are identical. The answer was that 10 panelists out of 11 found the right answer, meaning that they recognized a difference between the two samples, which is quite significant at 5%.

15 4.2. Strawberry maceration composition of Example 3

The sorting test was carried out on the following commercial products bought in France: “Honest grenade myrtille” (“Honest pomegranate blueberry”), “May tea thé blanc framboise” (“May tea raspberry white tea”), Volvic jus de fraise” (“Volvic strawberry juice”), Cristaline fraise (“Cristaline strawberry”), “Evian thé blanc menthe framboise”
20 (“Evian raspberry mint white tea”), on top of the strawberry maceration composition prepared in Example 1 and reconstituted strawberry juice. All the products are written in italics. The maceration of the invention is marked by a star “*” in Figure 2.

The axes of the sorting are representations in two dimension of a multidimensional
25 system. The sorting tests shows the situation of the products in view of indicators, written in bold (astringent, strawberry cooked, off-note, strawberry candy, red fruits, floral, maceration and diluted), all indicators well-known to the panelists before the test. The sorting test show the position of the product one with respect to the others.

The results of the sorting test are shown in the two-dimension graph of Figure 2. Three regions are defined, excluding the product “May tea thé blanc framboise” which is not well represented in this graph. Each region represents a sensory area. Three sensory areas are clearly disclosed, the first one (2A) comprising the strawberry maceration composition according to the invention, far from the sensory area (2B) and from the sensory area (2C). Reconstituted lemon juice, in sensory area (2C), is perceived more diluted.

In conclusion, the strawberry maceration composition of the invention is close to the reconstituted strawberry juice, and significantly far from the other beverages in terms of taste.

A 2 out of 5 (blind) test was performed to check if the strawberry maceration composition of the invention and reconstituted strawberry juice were recognized as different from a taste point of view by naïve panelists blindly. For this, 5 blind samples are proposed to the panelists who have to separate in two groups (2 and 3) those which are identical. The answer was that 10 panelists out of 11 found the right answer, meaning that they recognized a difference between the two samples, which is quite significant at 5%.

The final conclusion of the sensory tests was that the maceration compositions of the invention had significant sensory profiles compared to reconstituted juices and other commercial products.

Example 5: constituents of the maceration compositions according to the invention

The strawberry maceration composition of the invention (Example 3) and the reconstituted strawberry juice were analyzed according to both Liquid Chromatography coupled to High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry (LC-HRMS) and Gas chromatography

couple to High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (GC-HRMS). Samples of both products were analyzed without treatment for GC-HRMS analysis, and diluted by a factor of 100 of LC-HRMS analysis. Samples were analyzed with Head space GC-QExactive to obtain a chemical fingerprint of the compounds present in the samples. Thus, the chemical fingerprints of the samples and the transport blank were compared in order to highlight the unexplained peaks. They were then identified using an international database of more than 250,000 compounds (NIST).

Three compounds were identified by LC-HRMS in strawberry maceration composition samples while they are absent in reconstituted strawberry juices. They are as follows:

Proposition of identification	Formula	Molecular Weight
Pinostrobin 5-glucoside	C ₂₂ H ₂₄ O ₉	432.1403
Scopoletin	C ₁₀ H ₈ O ₄	192.0416
Cyanidin 3-O-[b-D-Xylopyranosyl-(1->2)-[(4-hydroxy-3-methoxycinnamoyl)-(->6)-b-D-glucopyranosyl-(1->6)]]-b-D-galactopyranoside]	C ₄₂ H ₄₆ O ₂₃	918.2389

Several tests were carried out with respect to the origin of the fruits. The results remain the same, which means that these compounds are present in the strawberry maceration composition according to the invention independently of the origin of the fruit.

These compounds are present in the strawberry maceration composition but absent in reconstituted strawberry juices showing a very specific flavor profile of the strawberry maceration composition of the invention.

Claims

1. A method for preparing a maceration composition made from at least one
5 component selected from the group comprising fruits, vegetables, plants and spices,
said method comprising the following steps:
 - Macerating the component by dipping it into water in order to have the
equivalent of 15 to 80 g of component for 1 L of maceration composition,
at a temperature of 15°C to 25°C, for a period of 30 to 120 minutes, thus
10 obtaining a solid material in a maceration;
 - Separating the maceration from the solid material;
 - Acidifying the maceration and/or the water to obtain a maceration
composition having a pH between 3.1 and 3.5.
- 15 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the maceration composition preferably
comprises an equivalent of 25 to 50 g of component for 1 L of maceration
composition.
3. A method according to any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein said separating step
20 comprises at least one of the following steps: decanting step, clarifying step, and
filtering step.
4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the maceration
composition is further subjected to a step of mixing with sugar.
- 25 5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the maceration
composition is further subjected to at least one of the steps of sterilizing and
pasteurizing.

6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the maceration composition is further subjected to at least one of the steps of dilution.
7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the maceration composition is diluted with
5 water selected from the group comprising mineral water, spring water, treated water, and tap water.
8. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein during the acidifying step,
the maceration and/or the water is acidified with citric acid, malic acid or any other
10 suitable acid.
9. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the maceration composition is further subjected to at least one of the steps of mixing with at least one additive selected from the group comprising natural coloring foodstuff,
15 preservatives, and natural flavor.
10. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein in the macerating step, the component is introduced into pieces.
- 20 11. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the component is selected from the group comprising apple, banana, pear, lemon, lime, orange, mandarin, grapefruit, kiwi, passion fruit, mango, pomegranate, papaya, peach, apricot, watermelon, melon, strawberry, blackcurrant, currant, gooseberry, raspberry, blueberry, blackberry, cranberry, cherry, grape, hibiscus, elderflower, carrot, sugar
25 beet, fennel, cucumber, ginger, mint, basil, rosemary, fenugreek, verbena, sage, thyme, parsley, lime, chamomile, tarragon, and spices.
12. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the component is selected from the group comprising apple, banana, lemon, lime, orange, mandarin,
30 grapefruit, mango, pomegranate, peach, strawberry, blackcurrant, raspberry,

blueberry, cherry, white grape, red grape, elderflower, peppermint, spearmint, Marseillais basil, Thai basil, cinnamon, cardamom, saffron, lemongrass, cocoa and vanilla.

- 5 13. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein, for the macerating step, the water is selected from the group comprising mineral water, spring water, treated water, and tap water.
- 10 14. A maceration composition, obtainable according to the method of any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein said maceration composition comprises between 20 and 40 g/L of sugar.
- 15 15. A bottled beverage comprising at least one maceration composition according to claim 14.

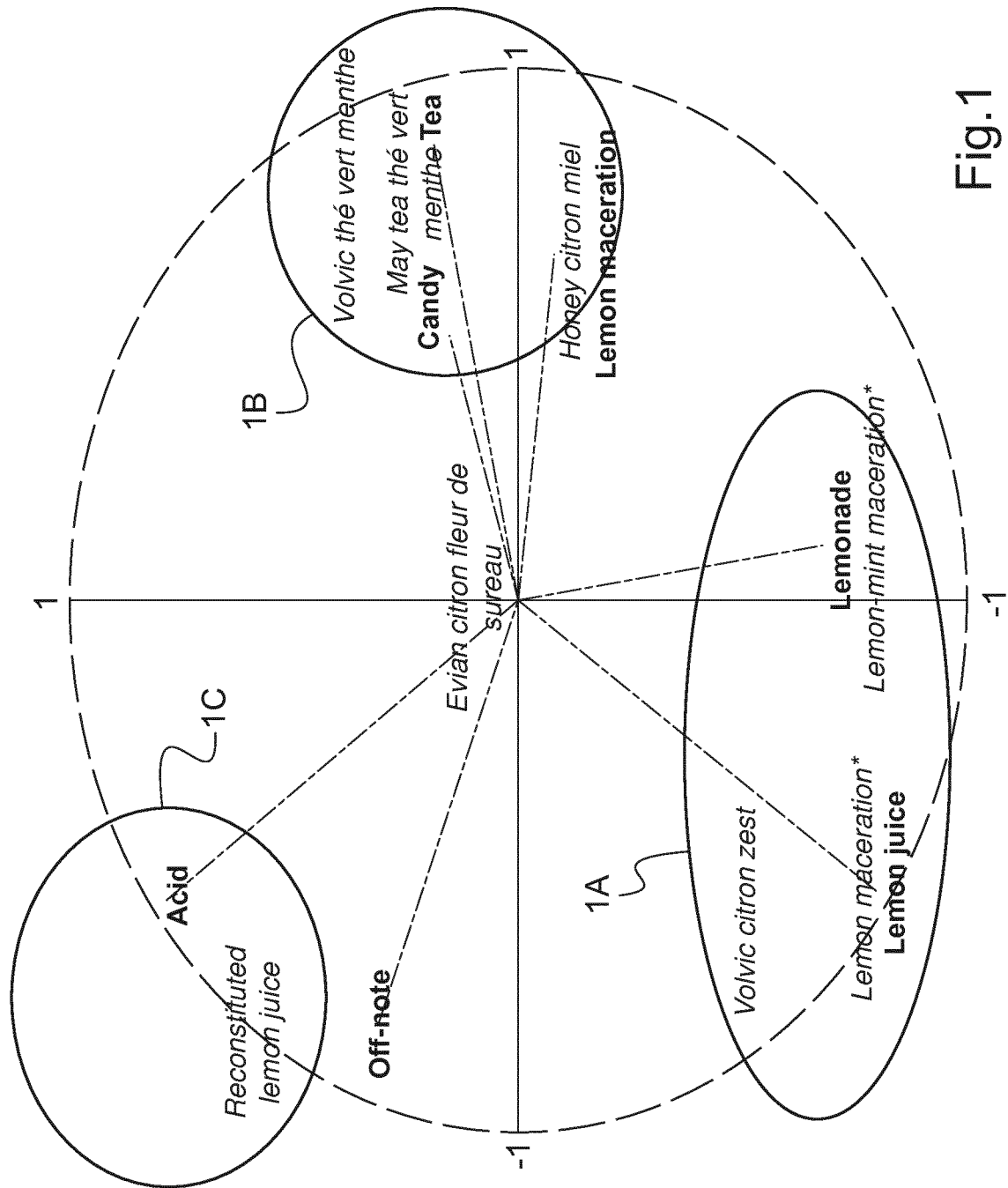


Fig.1

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