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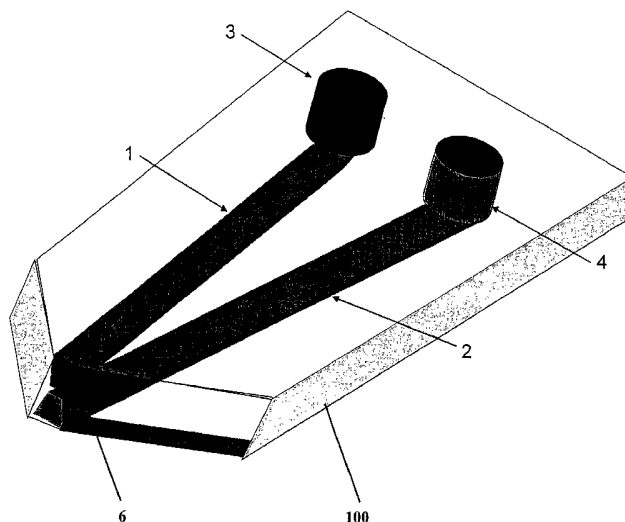
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR DISPENSING A SAMPLE IN ELECTROSPRAY MASS SPECTROMETERS



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to an apparatus to dispense a sample for subsequent electrospray ionisation (ESI) mass spectrometry (MS) analysis, to a method of fabricating such apparatus and to applications of such apparatus in biological and chemical analysis. The apparatus consists of an electrically non-conductive substrate (100) comprising at least two covered microstructures (1, 2) (generally microchannels) having one extremity (6) formed at the edge of the substrate, one of said microstructures containing the sample to be dispensed into a mass spectrometer by electrospray ionisation and at least a second of said microstructure containing a fluid used as sheath liquid or sheath gas, said at least two microstructures (1, 2) being formed in such a manner that the sample and the sheath liquid/gas come in contact to each other and/or are mixed directly in the Taylor cone of the spray.



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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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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, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 97/04297 A (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY) 6 February 1997 (1997-02-06) claims 1-44 page 1, line 31 - page 2, line 24 page 7, lines 8-19 page 10, lines 19-22 page 13, lines 1-5 page 13, line 33 - page 14, line 30 page 18, lines 1-10 figures 1c, 2a, 4, 5, 6a	1-23, 25-56
A	WO 92/21138 A (ANALYTICA OF BRANDFORD, INC) 26 November 1992 (1992-11-26) figure 4	1, 24, 25, 42, 53, 55

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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