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(54) Title: COSMETIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL FOAM

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to an alcohol-free cosmetic or pharmaceutical foam carrier comprising water, a hydrophobic solvent, a foam adjuvant agent, a surface-active agent and a water gelling agent. The cosmetic or pharmaceutical foam carrier does not contain aliphatic alcohols, making it non-irritating and non-drying. The alcohol-free foam carrier is suitable for inclusion of both water-soluble and oil soluble pharmaceutical and cosmetic agents.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
1PC 7 A61K9/12 A61K7/00

A01N25/16

A61K47/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61K A01N

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, PAJ, EMBASE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.			
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X	US 2002/072544 A1 (MILLER DENNIS ET AL) 13 June 2002 (2002-06-13) examples	1-87			
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X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in annex.				
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filling 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 filling 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				
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report				
5 July 2004	2 8. 10. 2004				
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Giménez Miralles, J				

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International Application No
PCT/IB 03/05527

C.(Continu	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	FC1/1B 03/0332/
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	
	onation of decement, with indication, where appropriate, or the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Х	US 5 641 480 A (VERMEER ROBERT) 24 June 1997 (1997-06-24) the whole document	1-87
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International application No. PCT/IB 03/05527

Box I Obs	servations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
	onal Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
beca	ms Nos.: ause they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
nun	though claims 66-87 are directed to a method of treatment of the man/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged fects of the compound/composition.
beca an ex	ns Nos.: 1,16,66 partially luse they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such stent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically: FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
becar	ns Nos.: use they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II Obs	ervations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This Internation	nal Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
see	e additional sheet
1. As all search	required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all hable claims.
2. As all of any	searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment γ additional fee.
3. As onl covers	ly some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report s only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
103110	quired additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is ted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 16, 66 partially
Remark on Pro	The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1,16,66 partially

A foamable carrier composition comprising 1) hydrophobic solvent, 2) water, 3) foam adjuvant, 4) surfactant, and 5) gelling agent; and a pharmaceutical or cosmetic composition comprising said foamable carrier.

2. claims: 1,16,66 partially

A foam generator/dispenser (pressurized container) comprising a container and a liquified or compressed gas propellant

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.1

Rule 39.1(iv) $\,$ PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy

Continuation of Box 1.2

Claims Nos.: 1,16,66 partially

Present independent claim 1 relates to an extremely large number of possible foamable carrier compositions, namely all those comprising 1) a hydrophobic solvent, 2) water, 3) a foam adjuvant, 4) a surfactant, and 5) a gelling agent (with no restriction or limitation). Said definition covers so many possible options and alternatives lacking support and/or disclosure in the description (Articles 5 and 6 PCT) as to render a meaningful search impossible. It is the same for independent claims 16 and 66. Moreover, said foamable carrier composition is defined by reference to the result to be achieved, expressed in terms of a desirable characteristic or property, namely that upon release of a pharmaceutical or cosmetic composition comprising said foamable carrier composition from a pressurized container it produces a "breakable foam". The claims cover all foamable carrier compositions comprising the components 1)-5) and having this characteristic or property, whereas the application provides support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT for only a very limited number of such compositions. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible.

Further, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT), because the definition by reference to a result to be achieved only amounts to claiming the technical problem to be solved instead of claiming the relevant technical features which amount to its solution. Moreover, the expression "breakable foam" is unclear. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible.

Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be clear, supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to claims 1, 16 and 66 taken in combination with claims 6 and 12 and the examples.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

International Application No PCT/IB 03/05527

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