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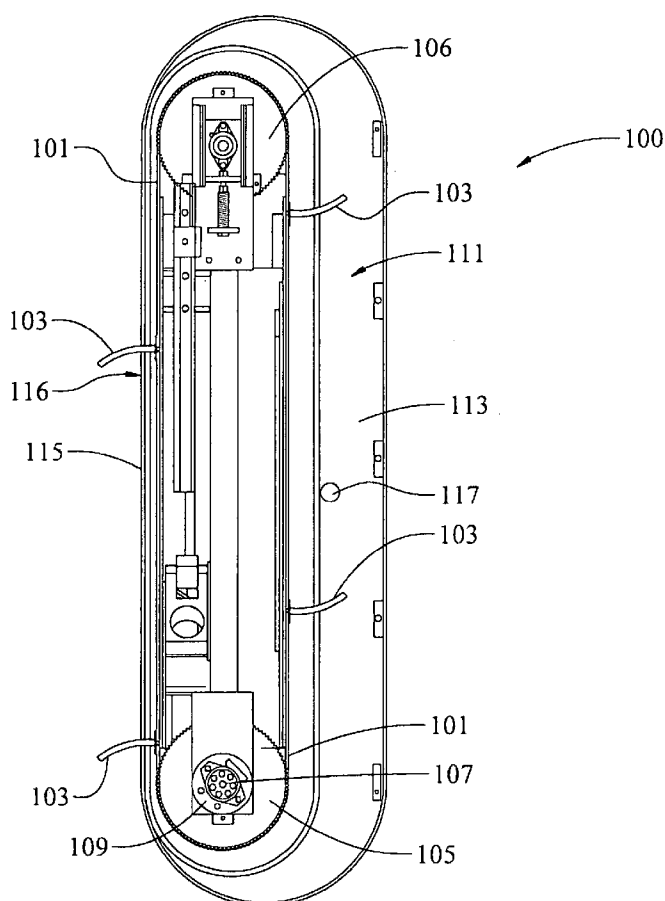
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR EVALUATING PLANT STALK STRENGTH



(57) Abstract: An apparatus (100) for measuring stalk strength and/or root strength of a plant is provided. In accordance with various embodiments, the apparatus (100) includes a conveyor (101) operably connected to a motor (107) for circulatorily driving the conveyor (101) around a plurality of guide devices (106). At least one pulling finger (103) is coupled to the conveyor (101). Each pulling finger (103) is structured such that, when the apparatus (100) is positioned adjacent the plant stalk and the conveyor (101) is driven around the guide devices (106), each pulling finger (103) will contact and pull a plant stalk as each pulling finger (103) travels around the guide devices (106). The apparatus (100) additionally includes a force sensor (109) for measuring resistive force encountered by the motor (107) as each pulling finger (103) pulls the plant stalk.



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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 044 210 A (KUHN KEVIN W [US] ET AL) 3 September 1991 (1991-09-03) column 2, line 66 - column 3, line 21; figures	1,6,19
A	US 2002/014112 A1 (DE GREEF JACOB HENDRIK [NL]) 7 February 2002 (2002-02-07) paragraphs [0033], [0034]; figures	1,6,19
A	US 4 418 564 A (MCKINLEY JOHN A [US]) 6 December 1983 (1983-12-06) figures	1,6,19
A	US 6 983 582 B1 (MUCKLER GREGORY A [US]) 10 January 2006 (2006-01-10) column 4, line 38 - line 65; figures	1,6,19
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

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