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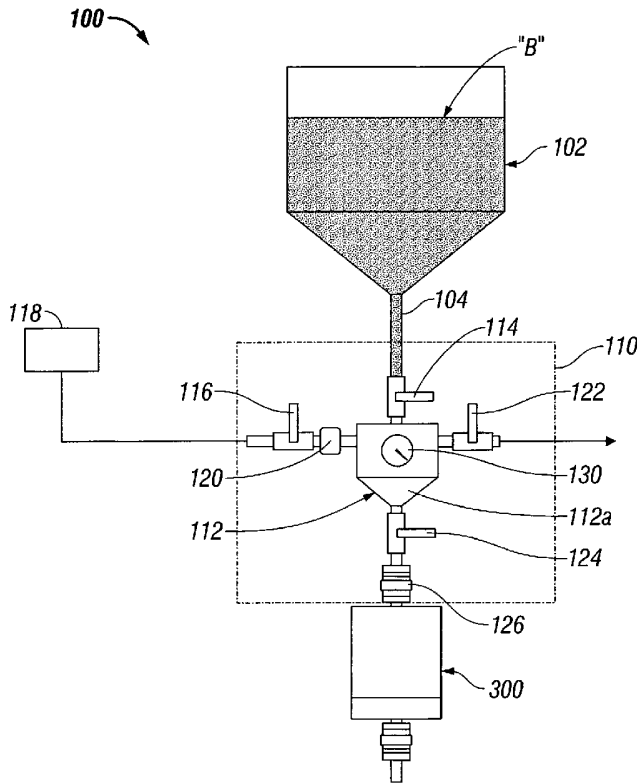
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD TO ELUTE MICROORGANISMS FROM A FILTER



(57) Abstract: There is provided apparatuses and methods for eluting microorganisms from filter media. The apparatus includes an housing for receiving filter media suspected of containing microorganisms and means for exposing the filter media to a pressurized buffer solution. By passing the buffer solution through the filter media under pressure, microorganisms trapped in or on the filter media are eluted therefrom.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. B01D29/66

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)
B01D

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.
X	DE 199 56 121 A1 (DEMAS GESELLSCHAFT FUER METALLBAU- UND UMWELTTECHNIK MBH) 23 May 2001 (2001-05-23) column 2, line 58 - column 3, line 51; figure 1	1-5, 9, 10, 13-15, 17, 19
X	FR 2 764 818 A (DEGREMONT) 24 December 1998 (1998-12-24) page 4, line 30 - page 7, line 7; figure 1	1-5, 10, 11, 13-15, 19
X	DE 76 01 269 U1 (BOLL & KIRCH FILTERBAU GMBH, 5000 KOELN) 24 February 1977 (1977-02-24) page 6, line 11 - page 11, paragraph 1; figure 1	1-5, 10, 13-15

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* Special categories of cited documents :

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*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
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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)	*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.
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	* & * document member of the same patent family
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search 3 July 2006	Date of mailing of the international search report 10/07/2006
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 19956121	A1	23-05-2001	NONE	
FR 2764818	A	24-12-1998	WO 9857724 A1	23-12-1998
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