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(54) **ANIMAL RESISTANT CONTAINER SYSTEM AND METHOD**

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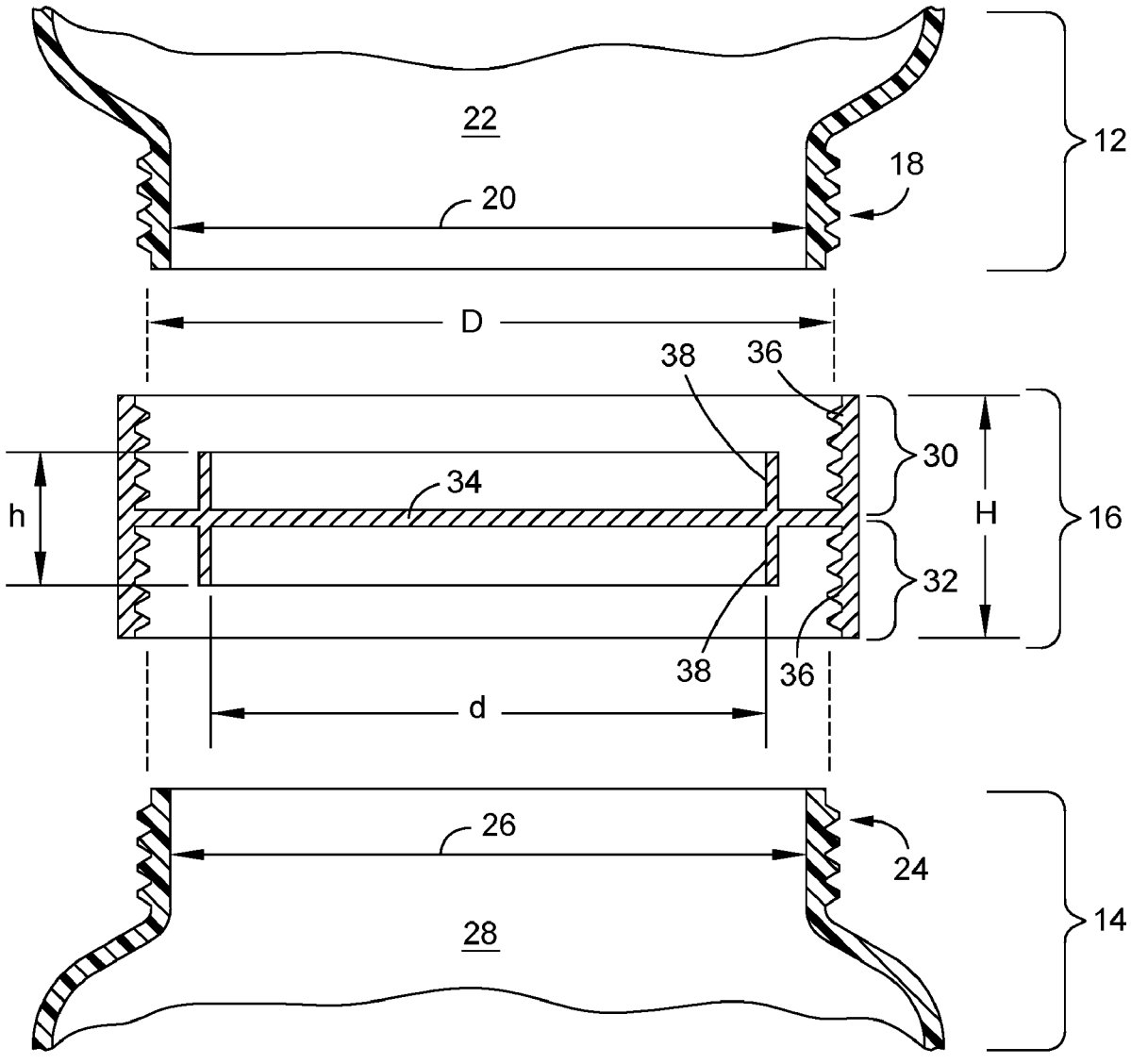
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An animal resistant container system is contemplated in which two separate storage volumes, each including its own connector portion that defines the opening into the interior of that storage volume, may be simultaneously connected to opposed interconnector portions of a single interconnector, with the interconnector including a cross-sectional structure that may serve to at least partially occlude the opening into the interior of either or both storage volume when that storage volume is connected to the interconnector. In this fashion, two separate interior volumes may be utilized in a modular way, which permits the simultaneous use of different types or sizes of storage volumes with a single interconnector portion.



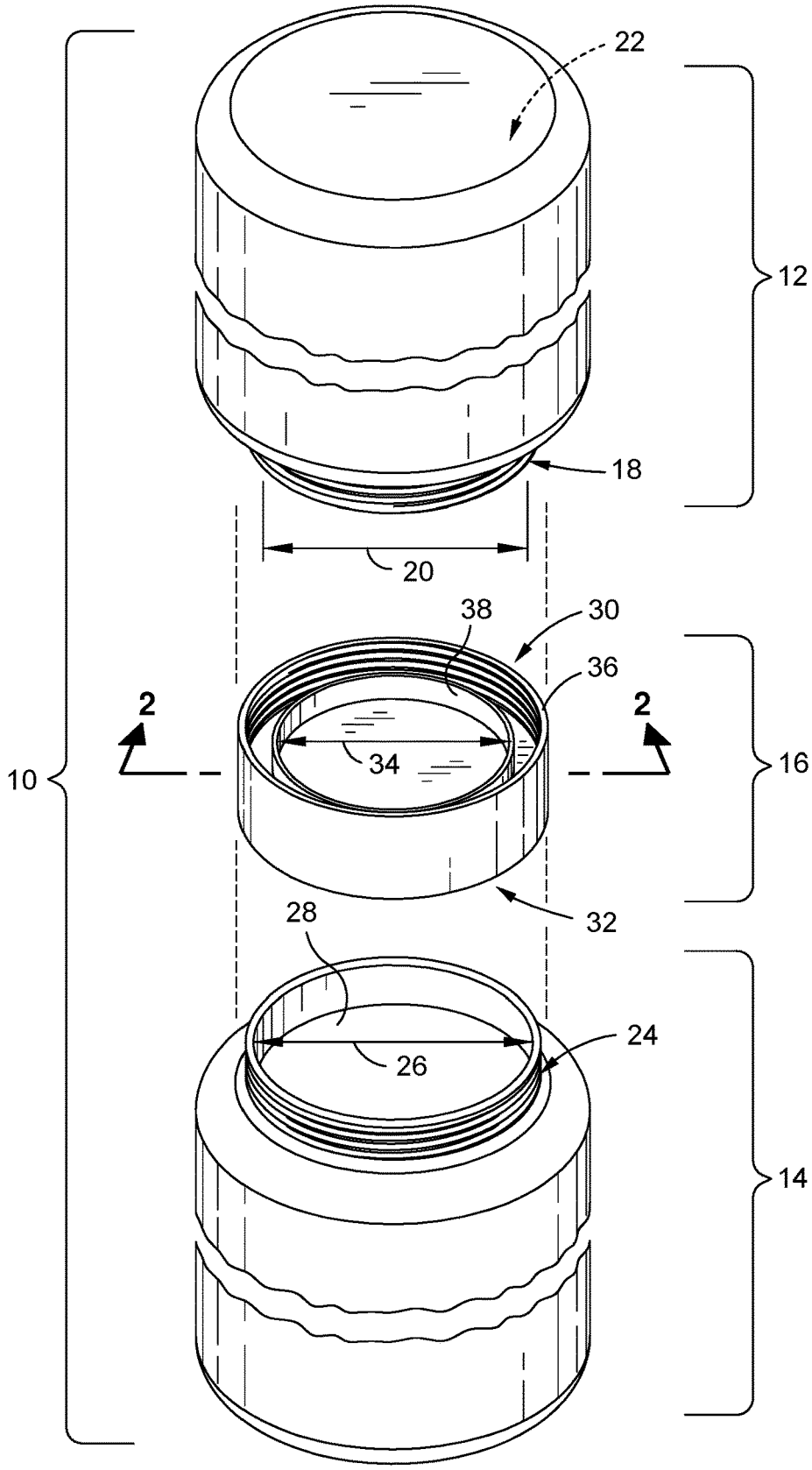


FIG. 1

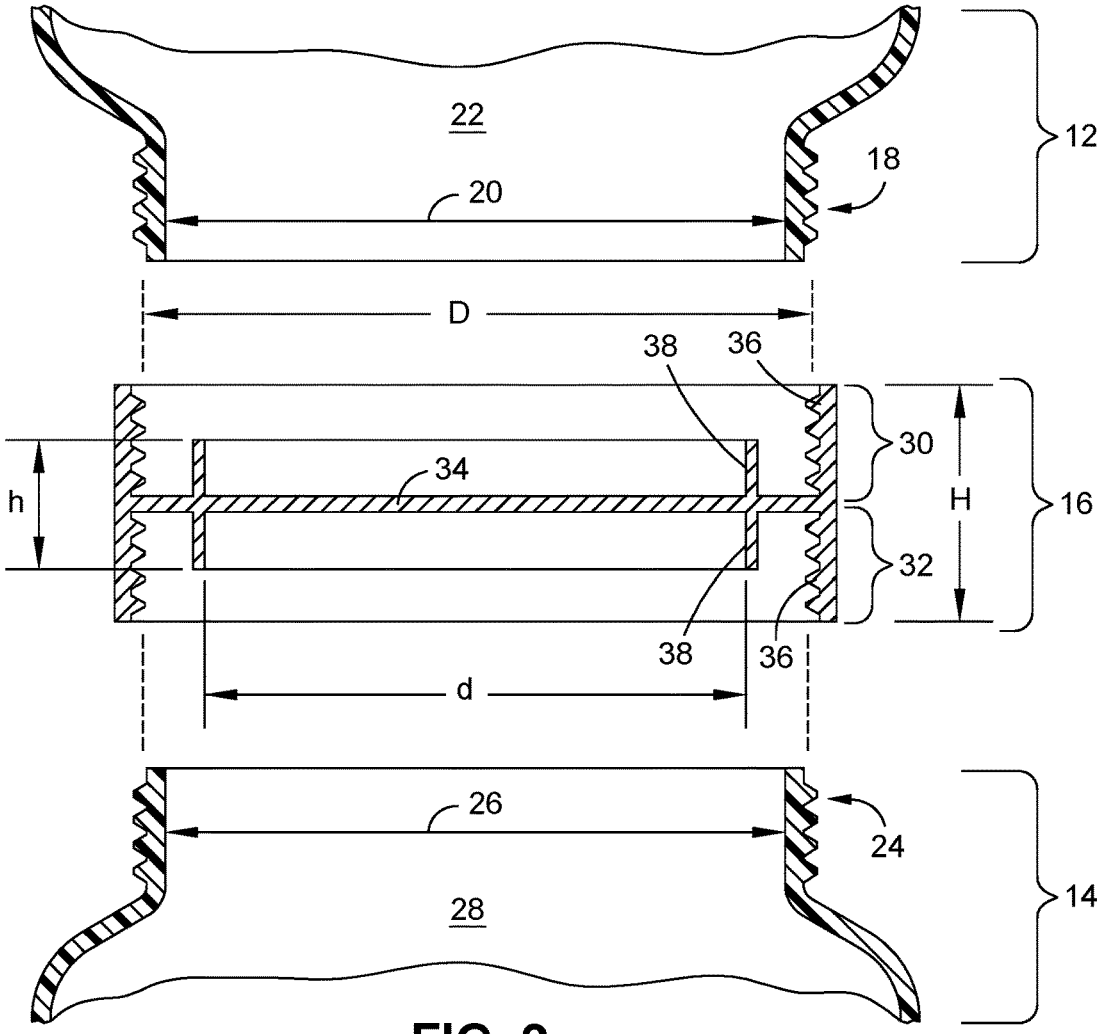

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FIG. 2

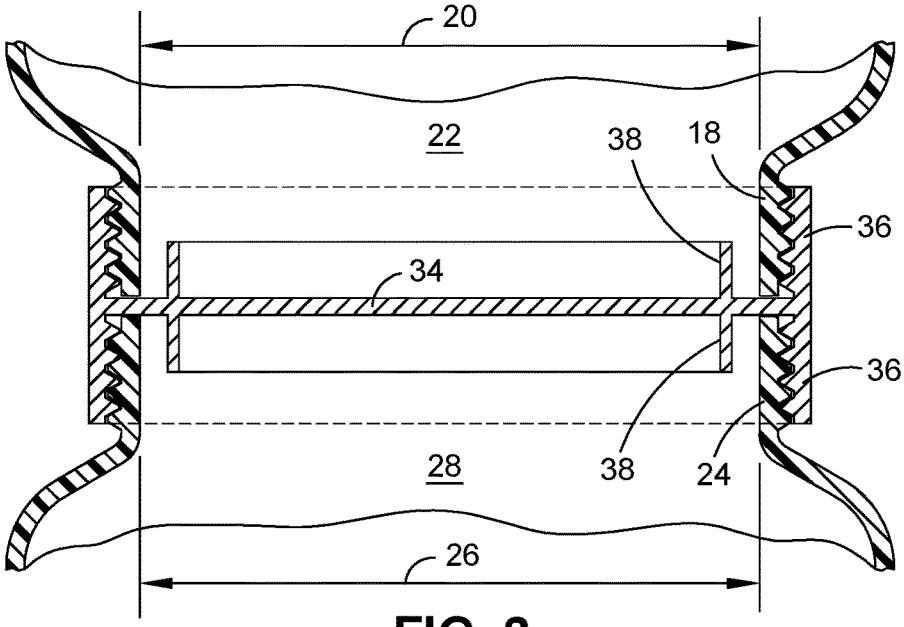
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FIG. 3

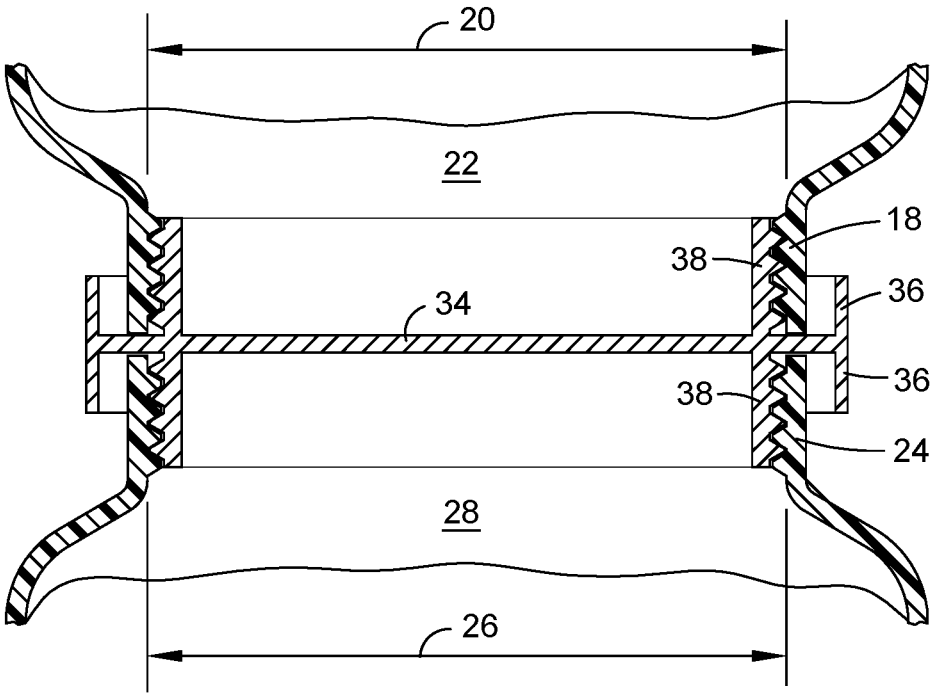

FIG. 4

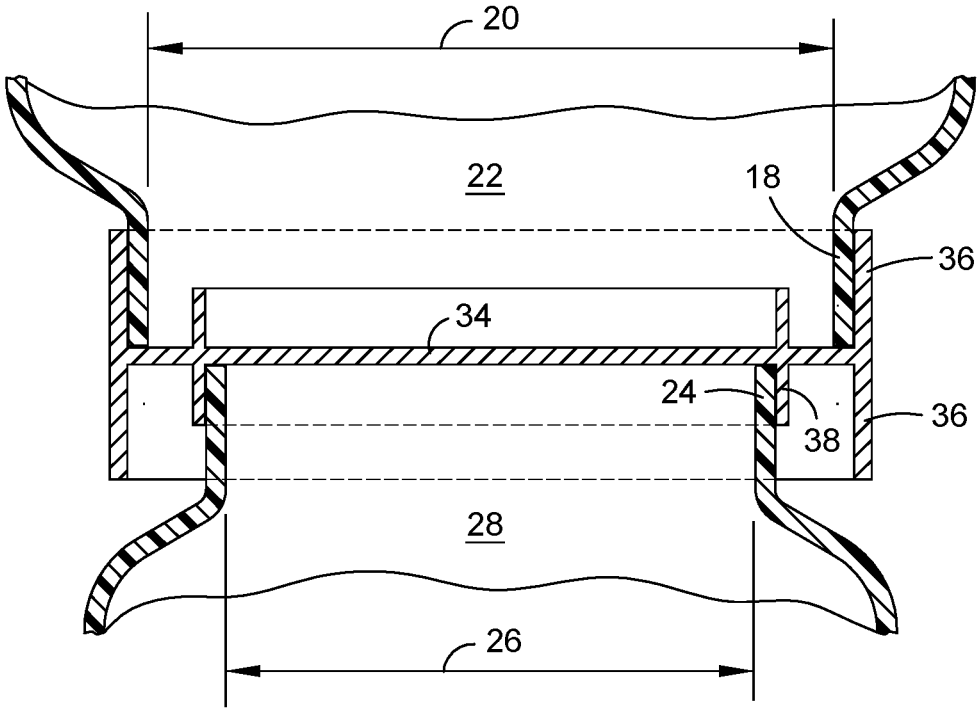

FIG. 5

ANIMAL RESISTANT CONTAINER SYSTEM AND METHOD

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application relates to and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/249,206, filed Sep. 28, 2021 and entitled "ANIMAL RESISTANT CONTAINER SYSTEM AND METHOD," the entire contents of which is expressly incorporated by reference.

STATEMENT RE: FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT

[0002] Not Applicable

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

[0003] The present disclosure relates generally to the field of animal resistant containers. More particularly, the present disclosure relates to novel systems and methods for storing items in containers in a fashion that is capable of resisting the forces of wild animals while remaining lightweight, economical, and practical for use during outdoor activities.

2. Related Art

[0004] In the field of animal resistant containers, there is a strong demand for improved products that are capable of better addressing customer needs. Technology must develop the support this demand.

[0005] Currently, animal resistant containers suffer from a number of deficiencies. Today, the predominant way in which items like foodstuffs, which may attract the attention of wild animals, are protected is either by (a) placing those items in a container that is sufficiently strong that it will stymie a wild animal's attempts to physically access the interior of the container or to damage any of its contents, and which includes an access mechanism that will allow access by a human but not a wild animal, or by (b) placing the items in a location that a wild animal will not typically be able to access.

[0006] For a container to be sufficiently strong to resist attempts by a wild animal (for example, a bear, racoon or squirrel) to physically access its interior and to protect its contents from damage during any such attempts, it generally must be formed of a thick, rigid material such as a polymer or a metal. Such containers are typically formed as cylinders so as to maximize strength and volume and are often referred to as "canisters." Alternatively, flexible "sacks" made of reinforced woven material such as Kevlar or Spectra may be used to prevent physical access to the interior and contents. Typically, such canisters and sacks will have an opening mechanism at one end that permit ready opening by a human but not a wild animal, either via such opening requiring a certain level of manual dexterity, or by requiring use of a tool such as a screwdriver or the edge of a coin. For example, screw lid, twist-lock lids, knotted or keyed openings are common.

[0007] Alternatively, the items to be protected may be placed in a location that the wild animal will not be able to access. Most commonly, this is accomplished by elevating the items to a height that will be beyond the reach of a wild animal. Typically, the items will be placed in a bag or sack that is attached to a long cord, and the bag or sack is hoisted to the desired height using a conveniently located rigid structure, such as a tree branch. The end of the cord will be secured to another conveniently located rigid structure, such as a tree trunk, to maintain the bag or sack at the desired height until the cord is removed.

[0008] In many outdoor situations, conveniently located rigid structures may not be readily available, hanging may be ineffective against animals that climb, or tree limb damage may be excessive, and thus the first option for protecting items from wild animals may be preferred. However, existing container systems of the "canister" and "sack" type suffer from a number of deficiencies, including weight, material efficiency, and convenience.

[0009] Therefore, this is a need in the art for improved animal resistant container systems and method of using such animal resistant container systems, which remedy these deficiencies.

BRIEF SUMMARY

[0010] An animal resistant container system, and a method of using such a container system, is contemplated in which two or more separate storage volumes, each including its own connector portion that defines the opening into the interior of that storage volume, may be simultaneously connected to opposed interconnector portions of a single interconnector, with the interconnector including a cross-sectional structure that may serve to at least partially occlude the opening into the interior of either or both storage volume when that storage volume is connected to the interconnector. In this fashion, an animal resistant container system may be manufactured and used which may be formed of less material than a conventional animal resistant container having the same internal volume for storing items, may allow for two or more separate interior volumes which optionally be kept segregated from one another, and which may be modular so as to permit the simultaneous use of different types or sizes of storage volumes with a single interconnector portion between any two volume sections.

[0011] According to one exemplary embodiment, an animal resistant container system may comprise a first storage volume, the first storage volume including a first connector portion, the first connector portion at least partially defining a first aperture permitting access into an interior of the first storage volume, a second storage volume, the second storage container including a second connector portion, the second connector portion at least partially defining a second aperture permitting access into an interior of the second storage volume, and an interconnector comprising a pair of opposed interconnection portions and at least one cross-sectional structure, each of the first and second connector portions being engageable with at least one of the interconnection portions such that first connector portion may be engaged with one of the interconnection portions with the second connector portions simultaneously engaged with the other of the interconnection portions, wherein, when a connector portion of a storage container is engaged with the interconnector, the cross-sectional structure at least partially spans the aperture at least partially defined by that connector portion so as to at least partially occlude access into the interior of that storage volume.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] These and other features and advantages of the various embodiments disclosed herein are better understood with respect to the following descriptions and drawings, in which:

[0013] FIG. **1** is a perspective view showing the components of an exemplary embodiment of an animal resistant container system including a first connector portion, a second connector portion, and an interconnector;

[0014] FIG. **2** is a side cutaway view of the exemplary embodiment the animal resistant container system shown in FIG. **1**, showing one example of how the first connector portion, the second connector portion, and the interconnector may be configured to allow for engagement;

[0015] FIG. **3** is a side cutaway view of the exemplary embodiment the animal resistant container system shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, showing one example of the first connector portion, the second connector portion, and the interconnector in a simultaneously engaged configuration;

[0016] FIG. **4** is a perspective view of a second exemplary embodiment of an animal resistant container system, showing another example of the first connector portion, the second connector portion, and the interconnector in a simultaneously engaged configuration;

[0017] FIG. **5** is a perspective view of a third exemplary embodiment of an animal resistant container system, showing a further example of the first connector portion, the second connector portion, and the interconnector in a simultaneously engaged configuration.

[0018] Common reference numerals are used throughout the drawings and the detailed description to indicate the same elements.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0019] According to various aspects of the present disclosure, animal resistant container systems and methods are contemplated, in which two or more separate storage volumes, each including a connector portion which at least partially defines an opening into the interior of that storage volume, may be simultaneously connected to opposed interconnector portions of a single interconnector, with that interconnector including a cross-sectional structure that may serve to at least partially occlude the opening into the interior of either or both storage volume when that storage volume is connected to the interconnector. In this fashion, the resulting animal resistant container system may be seen to have a number of advantages over conventional container systems, including advantages in modularity, economy, weight, organization, and convenience. As such, these systems and methods represent substantial improvements over the prior art.

[0020] Turning now to FIG. **1**, a perspective view of a first exemplary embodiment of an animal resistant container system **10** is shown. As may be seen, this system may include a first storage volume **12**, a second storage volume **14**, and an interconnector **16**. The first storage volume **12** may include a first connector portion **18** defining a first aperture **20** which permits access into a first storage volume interior **22**. The second storage **14** volume may likewise include a second connector portion **24** defining a second aperture **26** which permits access into a second storage volume interior **28**. The interconnector may include a pair of opposed interconnection portions **30**, **32**, and a cross-sectional structure **34**.

[0021] The first and second storage volumes **12**, **14** may be any type of storage volumes suitable for use in animal resistant container systems. In the first exemplary embodiment, these storage volumes **12**, **14** may be seen to be generally cylindrical in form, with extended, rounded sides and generally flat ends, such that when the resulting animal resistant container system **10** is fully assembled, the entire container system is likewise generally cylindrical. Advantageously, a generally cylindrical storage volume **12**, **14** may allow for the storage volume **12**, **14** and/or the assembled animal resistant container system **10** to more easily fit in a pack, which may be especially important in the context of backpacking because everything must be carried by the backpacker and thus stowed efficiently as space is limited. By the same token, off-season storage of the storage volumes **12**, **14** may likewise benefit from their generally cylindrical shape. It has also been found that a generally cylindrical shape may allow a backpacker or other hiker or camper to use the storage volume **12**, **14** or assembled system **10** as a stool to sit on while at camp. In this way, packing may be made even more efficient as it may no longer be necessary to pack a separate seat, with the system **10** instead serving a dual purpose as animal resistant storage and seating. A generally cylindrical shape may also have a distinct advantage over more round or spherical shapes in terms of animal resistance. By dispersing pressure exerted by a large mammal, for example a bear pumping on the structure, along a greater surface area with ground contact and one that has the reinforcing strength of a rounded terminal corner defining the end of the cylinder, a generally cylindrical container may resist the forces exerted on it far better than would a generally spherical shape with a single point of ground contact.

[0022] However, it may be seen that other shapes and configurations of storage volumes **12**, **14** may be utilized, without departing from the scope and spirit of the present disclosure. For example, storage volumes **12**, **14** which may have square or rectangular cross-sections may be utilized, or any other cross-sections such as ovoid, hexagonal, or any other geometry known for use as suitable for storage volumes may be utilized, including spherical geometries. It is further contemplated that the first and second storage volumes **12**, **14** may be substantially identically formed in shape and configuration, which may be seen to potentially aid in ease of economical mass production and a reduction of difficulty to manufacture, or the first and second storage volumes **12**, **14** may be substantially dissimilar in shape, such as differing in one or more dimensions (e.g., cylinder length), and/or configuration, which may aid in differentiation of the two storage volumes according to the purpose for which such volumes may be desired to be used. For example, it is contemplated that volumes may be differently designed or colored so as to assist in identification of the volumes from one another, resulting in a user being able to more easily use the different volumes for different items or types of items, and to more easily access the items within those volumes, compared to a single volume which would hold all of the items together and potentially result in difficulty in retrieving certain items.

[0023] For example, a user may desire to place smaller items in one volume and larger items in the other volume,

which may assist in more rapidly and easily retrieving the desired items compared to an arrangement in which all items are placed in the same volume, which may result in a smaller item not being accessible without first removing a larger item. It may also be desirable to provide or otherwise make available more than two storage volumes **12**, **14** of varying shapes, sizes, and/or configurations, and to allow the end user to select which particular two storage volumes **12**, **14** they wish to use at any given time. For example, it may be desired for a user to utilize one storage volume for items such as foodstuffs, and to as such to select a storage volume that is substantially rigid and is formed of a tough material that is resistant to the passage of air therethrough so as to reduce the tendency of a wild animal to detect the presence of such foodstuffs via smell, and to further prevent intrusion therein by such an animal. At the same time, the user may desire to place non-foodstuffs in the other storage volume, and as such may select for the other storage volume a material that is not necessarily substantially rigid nor is formed of a material that is as tough nor resistant to the passage of air, but which consequently may be less heavy and bulky. Alternatively, the user may desire to use one of the storage volumes as a receptacle for solid items, and the other as a liquid reservoir, such as for drinking water. As such, the user may be seen to have different requirements for each storage volume, and may naturally select storage volumes **12**, **14** having characteristics suitable for these varying purposes.

[0024] For example, a user who desires to use a particular storage volume for drinking water may select a storage volume that is watertight and has an internal lining material suitable for contact with water to maintain potability of the water and to prevent degradation or other damage to the material of the storage volume. In contrast, a storage volume used for solid packaged foodstuffs might be suitably manufactured from a material that would not be suitable for use with a liquid, and which may not even necessarily be watertight. According to further variations, a user may select one larger capacity and/or more lengthy storage volume for use on one side, and a smaller capacity and/or less lengthy storage volume on the other, according to any number of possible reasons particular to the user's needs. It may thus be seen that the potential variations in the actual configuration and dimensions of the storage volumes are essentially without limit, and that that any such potential sizes, shapes, or configurations may be utilized and achieved in accordance with the presently disclosed systems and methods without departing from the scope and spirit as herein contemplated.

[0025] By allowing for variable size container options, the animal resistant container system **10** may be tailored to the food capacity needs of a specific user, specific trip length, or group size. Whether it is youth or small stature hikers with lower caloric needs, or larger hikers with higher caloric needs, one size does not necessarily work well for all. Over time, minimizing weight and optimizing exact sizing of every piece that is put in a backpack has become something of an art, and a hot topic for mastery among backpackers, especially the growing category of "ultralight" backpackers. The variable size configurations allowed by the system **10** may meet these needs of backpackers and other users while keeping overall consumer cost down and material use (and thus environmental impact) to a minimum.

[0026] Each of the storage volumes **12**, **14** may include connector portions **18**, **24** which define apertures **20**, **26** which permits access into storage volume interiors **22**, **28**. According to the first exemplary embodiment illustrated in FIG. **1**, the connector portions **18**, **24** may be seen to comprise male threaded fittings protruding from the storage volumes **12**, **14** which surround apertures **20**, **26**, such apertures being openings into the storage volume interiors **22**, **28** of storage volumes **12**, **24**. Such male threaded fittings, which may be seen to protrude outwards and have threads on their exterior, may readily be seen to interconnect with a corresponding female threaded fitting on an interconnector portion **30**, **32** of the interconnector **16**. However, it may also be seen that the connector portions **18**, **24** may be any type of connector which may serve to allow for fixed engagement with any corresponding type of interconnector portion **30**, **32** of an interconnector **16**. It may be readily seen that the connector portions **18**, **24** may just as readily be female threaded fitting protruding outwards and having threads on their interior, while the interconnector portions **30**, **32** may be male threaded fittings. A wide variety of interconnection systems are known in the art to exist, and it may readily be seen that any of such systems may be adapted to the purposes of the present disclosure. Such interconnection systems are contemplated to include, for example and without limitation, in addition to threaded connections, tongue and groove fittings, bayonet mounting systems, and friction fit systems. It may also be seen that the interconnector **16** may be provided with interconnector portions **30**, **32** which may be utilized with a number of different types of fittings which may be provided on different storage volumes **12**, **14**, or may be especially adapted so as to only permit certain types of storage volumes to be attached to at least one of the interconnector portions **30**, **32**, and to prevent the attachment of other types of storage volumes to that interconnector portions. For example, in the situation in which a storage volume especially adapted for liquids may be desired, it may be desirable to use a connector portion **18**, **24** that will likewise attach to an interconnector **16**, or one of the interconnector portions thereof, that is likewise adapted for use with liquids, and which will not attach to an interconnector **16** or an interconnector portion **18**, **24** thereof that is not adapted for use with liquids.

[0027] An interconnector portion **16** may be provided that includes opposed interconnector portions **30**, **32**, each of which in the first exemplary embodiment illustrated in FIG. **1** comprises an external support ring **36** and an internal support ring **38**. It may be seen that in this first exemplary embodiment, the external support ring **38** is configured with threads on its internal surface, essentially functioning as a female threaded adapter. Consequently, each external support rings **36** is sized and configured to interface with the male threaded adapter connector portions **18**, **24** of the storage volumes **12**, **14**, enabling interconnection between the two components. In such a configuration, it may be seen that the internal support might thus function, if it does not have any features such as threads, as a friction-fit component configured to contact with a bare internal surface of the connector portions **18**, **24** when assembled together. Alternatively, the internal support ring **38** may be configured (or not configured) with one or more different types of connection features, which may permit engagement (or prohibit

engagement) with corresponding different connection features provided on different storage volumes **12**, **14**, also as described above.

[0028] The interconnector **16** may also include a cross-sectional structure **34** which may be configured to at least partially occlude the first aperture **20** and/or the second aperture **26** when the first and/or second storage volumes **12**, **14** are attached to the interconnector **16**. According to the first exemplary embodiment show in FIG. **1**, the cross-sectional support structure **34** comprises a barrier that completely occludes an aperture **20**, **26** of a storage volumes **12**, **14** when that storage volume is connected to the interconnector **16**, thus preventing the access to storage volume interiors **22**, **28** of a storage volumes **12**, **14** when that storage volume **12**, **14** is attached to the interconnector **16**, and likewise preventing any item within one storage volume from passing to the other storage volume when both are connected to the interconnector **16** simultaneously. In this manner, it may be seen that the interconnector may function in the manner of a cap when used with only one of the storage volumes **12**, **14**. However, it may be seen that in other embodiments, the cross-sectional structure **34** may not necessarily comprise a barrier that completely spans and occludes an aperture **20**, **26** of a storage volumes **12**, **14** when that storage volume is connected to the interconnector **16**, but rather may only partially occlude the aperture **20**, **26**. For example, it may be desirable in some embodiments to allow some amount of open space within the cross-sectional support structure **34** so as to not completely occlude one or both apertures **20**, **26** of a storage volumes **12**, **14** when the interconnector is attached thereto, such as where it may be desirable to permit some amount of airflow between the two storage volumes **12**, **14** when both are connected to the interconnector **16**, but not permit the passage of larger items from one storage volume **12**, **14** to the other, or to permit some level of ventilation between the storage volumes **12**, **14** and the outside environment, but not to permit the passage of items placed within the storage volume **12**, **14** to the outside.

[0029] In this fashion, the cross-sectional structure **34** may also be configured to vary at different regions. For example, in certain embodiments, the cross-sectional structure **34** may be completely occluding within the area delimited by the internal support rings **38** and may be only partially occluding within the area between the internal support ring **38** and the external support ring **36**. In this fashion, it may be seen that by engaging a connector portion **18**, **24** of a storage volume **12**, **14** with the internal support ring, a completely occlusive barrier may be placed over the aperture **20**, **26** of that storage volume **12**, **14**, while by engaging a connector portions **18**, **24** of a storage volume **12**, **14** with the external support ring, the barrier may be less occlusive. It may also be seen that such occlusion may be a result not entirely of cross-sectional occupancy, but also of material composition. For example, it may be seen that the cross-sectional structure **34** may be formed, in whole or in part, of a material which itself may be permeable in some fashion to some items or materials, but not to others. For example, it may be that the cross-sectional structure **34** or portions thereof may be formed of a "breathable" membrane such as expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE) or another material which may allow for the passage therethrough of vapor but may resist the passage of liquids. In this fashion, it may be that valve-like arrangements may be realized which may prevent the accumulation of pressure differences between the two storage volume interiors **22**, **28** or between the storage volume interiors **22**, **28** and the outside environment.

[0030] Turning now to FIG. **2**, a cutaway side view of the connector portions **18**, **24** and the interconnector **16** shown in FIG. **1** is shown, showing how the components may be seen, in the first exemplary embodiment, to be arranged prior to being attached together. For example, it may be seen that the parameters of the individual components of the opposed interconnector portions **30**, **32** may be varied in size and configuration to achieve different results. As may be seen, the connector portions **18**, **24** in the first exemplary embodiment may be sized to have an external diameter of about a length D which is configured to result in its male threaded adapter configuration correspondingly interfacing with the female threaded adapter configuration of the external support ring **36** of the opposed interconnector portions **30**, **32**, which has an internal diameter of about the same length D. Similarly, it may be seen that if it is desired to instead interface a connector portion **18**, **24** with the internal support ring **38** instead in the same fashion of a male threaded adapter engaging with a female threaded adapter, all that would be necessary would be to provide the internal support ring **38** with threads on its internal surface and to size the external diameter of the connector portions **18**, **24** (equipped as a male threaded adapter) to match the internal diameter d of the internal support ring **38**. Similar parameters and measurements may readily be understood to be pertinent when using other types of engagements, as required, and such necessary adaptations in the attachment methods and/or the sizing or tolerances of the individual components may be seen to be within the scope and spirt of the present disclosure. Likewise, configuration of the height H of the external support ring **36** or of the height h of the internal support ring **38** may likewise be subject to adaptations to fulfill the requirements of the animal resistant container system **10**.

[0031] Turning now to FIG. **3**, a cutaway side view of the connector portions **18**, **24** engaged with the interconnector **16**, according to the first exemplary embodiment as shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**. As may be seen, the cross-sectional structure **34** is interposed and occludes the whole cross section of the apertures **20**, **26**, and would still occlude one of the apertures **20**, **26** if the other storage volume **12**, **14** was removed from engagement with the interconnector **16**. Further, it may be seen how according to different potential arrangements of the cross-sectional structure **34**, different results may be achieved. For example, if the cross-sectional structure **34** were configured as described above, with the area delimited by the internal support ring **38** being completely occupied but the area between the internal support ring **38** and the external support ring **36** only partially occupied, a narrow region at the periphery of the apertures **20**, **26** may as a result be partially exposed, which may, for example, permit some airflow between the storage volumes **12**, **14**, but not the passage of any items of any substantial size from one storage volume **12**, **14**, through the interconnector **16**, and to the other storage volume, or to the outside environment if only one storage volume **12**, **14** were connected to the interconnector.

[0032] Turning now to FIG. **4**, a cutaway side view of connector portions **18**, **24** engaged with an interconnector **16** according to a second exemplary embodiment is shown. According to this second exemplary embodiment, it may be

seen that the internal support ring **38** of the interconnector is configured as a male threaded adapter on both of the opposed interconnector portions **30**, **32**, while the connector portions **18**, **24** are configured as female threaded adapters. Further, the external support ring **36** does not include any threaded engagement system, but rather is configured for engagement (if it were to be engaged) via frictional retention alone. Further, it may be seen that this configuration may serve to deter the intrusion of wild animals into the storage volume interiors **22**, **28** via the external support ring **36** serving to shield the connection between the connector portions **18**, **24** and the internal support ring **38**, which may prevent, for example, a wild animal from prying apart the connector portions **18**, **24** from the internal support ring **38**.

[0033] Turning now to FIG. **5**, a cutaway side view of connector portions **18**, **24** engaged with an interconnector **16** according to a third exemplary embodiment is shown. According to this third exemplary embodiment, it may be seen that two differently configured storage volumes **12**, **14** are utilized in which the two connector portions **18**, **24** engage with the interconnector **16** in different fashions, with one of the connector portions **18**, **24** engaging the interior surface of internal support ring **38** in a friction-fit engagement, while the other connector portions **18**, **24** engages the interior surface of the external support ring **36** in a friction-fit engagement. It may thus be seen, as described above, how such configurations can be achieved, which may permit, for example but without limitation, the use of different types or configurations of storage volumes **12**, **14** simultaneously with a single interconnector **16**.

[0034] Those skilled in the art will recognize that the interconnector **16** provides structural support for the container; selectively joins the two storage volumes together; may include a locking mechanism to prevent disconnection from one or both of the storage volumes (not shown) and can include various cross-sectional structures **34** as described above.

[0035] The above description is given by way of example, and not limitation. Given the above disclosure, one skilled in the art could devise variations that are within the scope and spirit of the invention disclosed herein. Further, the various features of the embodiments disclosed herein can be used alone, or in varying combinations with each other and are not intended to be limited to the specific combination described herein. Thus, the scope of the claims is not to be limited by the exemplary embodiments.

What is claimed is:

1. An animal resistant container system, comprising:

a first storage container, the first storage container including a first connector portion that defines a first aperture permitting access into an interior of the first storage container, the first storage container being generally cylindrical;

a second storage container, the second storage container including a second connector portion that defines a second aperture permitting access into an interior of the second storage container, the second storage container being generally cylindrical; and

an interconnector comprising a pair of opposed interconnection portions engageable respectively with the first and second connector portions.

2. The animal resistant container system of claim **1**, wherein the interconnector at least partially occludes the first and second apertures.

3. The animal resistant container system of claim **2**, wherein the interconnector fully occludes the first and second apertures.

4. The animal resistant container system of claim **1**, wherein the interiors of the first and second storage containers define different capacities.

5. The animal resistant container system of claim **1**, wherein one of the first and second storage containers is longer than the other.

6. The animal resistant container system of claim **1**, wherein one of the first and second storage containers is narrower than the other.

7. The animal resistant container system of claim **1**, wherein at least one of the first and second storage containers is formed of a rigid material.

8. The animal resistant container system of claim **1**, wherein at least one of the first and second storage containers is formed of a non-rigid material.

9. An animal resistant container system, comprising:

a first storage container, the first storage container including a first connector portion that defines a first aperture permitting access into an interior of the first storage container;

a second storage container, the second storage container including a second connector portion that defines a second aperture permitting access into an interior of the second storage container;

a third storage container, the third storage container including a third connector portion that defines a third aperture permitting access into an interior of the third storage container, the second and third storage containers being differently shaped; and

an interconnector that is usable in a first configuration of the animal resistant container system and in a second configuration of the animal resistant container system, the interconnector comprising a pair of opposed interconnection portions that are engageable respectively with the first and second connector portions to define the first configuration and engageable respectively with the first and third connector portions to define the second configuration.

10. The animal resistant container system of claim **9**, wherein the interconnector at least partially occludes the first aperture while one of the opposed interconnection portions is engaged with the first connector portion.

11. The animal resistant container system of claim **10**, wherein the interconnector fully occludes the first aperture while the one of the opposed interconnection portions is engaged with the first connector portion.

12. The animal resistant container system of claim **11**, wherein the interconnector is further usable in a third configuration of the animal resistant container system in which the interconnector functions as a cap for the first storage container, the one of the opposed interconnection portions being engageable with the first connector portion while the other of the opposed interconnection portions is unengaged to define the third configuration.

13. The animal resistant container system of claim **9**, wherein the interiors of the second and third storage containers define different capacities.

14. The animal resistant container system of claim **9**, wherein the second and third storage containers are generally cylindrical with one being longer than the other.

15. The animal resistant container system of claim **9**, wherein the second and third storage containers are generally cylindrical with one being narrower than the other.

16. The animal resistant container system of claim **9**, wherein at least one of the first, second, and third storage containers is formed of a rigid material.

17. The animal resistant container system of claim **9**, wherein at least one of the first, second, and third storage containers is formed of a non-rigid material.

18. An animal resistant container system, comprising:

a first storage container, the first storage container including a first connector portion that defines a first aperture permitting access into an interior of the first storage container;

a second storage container, the second storage container including a second connector portion that defines a second aperture permitting access into an interior of the second storage container; and

a third storage container, the third storage container including a third connector portion that defines a third aperture permitting access into an interior of the third storage container, the second and third storage containers being differently shaped and at least one of the first, second, and third storage containers being generally cylindrical, the first connector being engageable with the second connector to define a first configuration of the animal resistant container system and engageable with the third connector to define a second configuration of the animal resistant container system.

19. The animal resistant container system of claim **18**, wherein the interiors of the second and third storage containers define different capacities.

20. The animal resistant container system of claim **18**, wherein the second and third storage containers are generally cylindrical with one being longer than the other.

21. The animal resistant container system of claim **18**, wherein the second and third storage containers are generally cylindrical with one being narrower than the other.

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