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(54) **Continuous method of denitrating tobacco extracts.**

(57) An improved method of reducing the nitrate, nitrite and ammonium compound content of an aqueous tobacco extract employing microorganisms is described. The nitrates, nitrites and ammonium compounds are eliminated on a continuous basis via an aerobic assimilatory metabolic pathway by introducing aqueous tobacco extract and necessary additives into a work mixture, containing suitable microorganisms, at a dilution rate which does not exceed the growth rate of the microorganisms while withdrawing a portion of the work mixture at a rate such that the volume of the work mixture remains constant. Optionally the biomass may be removed from the withdrawn mixture.



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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. ³)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	FR - A - 2 354 716 (TOBACCO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE) * Examples 1,2; claims 1,6,7, 8,9,10 *	1,2,15	A 24 B 15/20
D	& US - A - 4 135 521 (MALAN et al.) --		
D	DE - A - 2 816 427 (FABRIQUES DE TABAC REUNIES S.A.) * Examples 5,6,7; claims 1,3,5,7; page 7, line 13 *	1-3, 9,11, 14,15	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. ³)
X			A 24 B 15/20
A	CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 76, no.9, 1 February 28, 1972, page 220, abstract 44103j Columbus, Ohio, USA KOIWAI, A et al. "Fermentation of tobacco. II. Variations in fermentation procedure and its effect of total particulate matter and benzo(a)pyrene" & Tob. Sci. 1971, 15, 41-3. --		
A	FR - A - 2 154 411 (BRITISH-AMERICAN TOBACCO CIE LTD.) * Claims 1-4,13,14,16; examples 1,11,13,14 *	1,4,5, 7,10, 11,15	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS
D	& US - A - 3 747 608 --		X: particularly relevant A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: conflicting application D: document cited in the application L: citation for other reasons
A	CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 79, 1973, page 203, abstract 123942x, ./.	1,4,5, 9,10, 11	&: member of the same patent family, corresponding document
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 13-01-1981	Examiner COUCKE



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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			2 CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. ³)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
	Columbus, Ohio, USA & JP - A - 73 49 999 (TOYOTAMA PERFUMERY CO. LTD.) (14-07-1973) * Abstract *		
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A	DE - C - 252 121 (W. KOENIG) * Page 2, lignes 25,27,42,45 *	1	
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A P	DE - A - 2 922 284 (BROWN & WILLIAMSON TOBACCO CORP.) * Claims 1,2,11; page 10, paragraphe 2; exemples 3, 11 * & GB - A - 2 028 628	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. ³)
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