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54 **Process for the removal of basic materials from plant products.**

57 A process is provided for the selective removal of basic materials from plant products, in particular, for removing nicotine from tobacco without materially affecting the content of the other components of the tobacco. Tobacco is traversed with a solvent in the supercritical state or in the liquid state wherein nicotine and the other components dissolve in the solvent. The solvent is then passed through an acid-containing trap where the solvent is essentially freed of nicotine. The solvent, depleted of nicotine and enriched in the other components, is then recycled to the tobacco to reextract nicotine. In addition, the tobacco may be pretreated with a chemical base which does not substantially react with the tobacco components under ambient conditions but rather is activated under the conditions of the extraction process. Pretreatment of the tobacco with a chemical base neutralizes nicotine salts and permits the extraction process to be carried out under milder conditions.

EP 0 280 817 A3



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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X,D	US-A-4 153 063 (ROSELIUS et al.) * Column 1, line 40 - column 2, line 54; column 2, line 62 - column 3, line 11; claims 1,12 *	1,3-5,8 -10	A 24 B 15/24 A 23 L 1/221 C 11 B 9/02 C 07 D 401/04 B 01 D 11/02
Y	---	2,6,12, 13,15, 22,23	
Y	EP-A-0 011 368 (LOEW'S THEATRES INCORPORATED) * Page 2, lines 16-19; page 4, lines 19-36; page 5, lines 1-15; example 1; table 6; claims 1-3,9,10 * & US-A-4 215 706 (Cat. D)	2,6	
X,D	---	16,17, 19-21	
Y	US-A-2 227 863 (RHODES) * Example 3 *	12,13, 15,22, 23	
A	---	1-23	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
	FR-A- 397 021 (SOCIETE ANONYME DES TABACS DESINTOXIQUES) * Page 1, lines 6-13; page 1, page 40 - page 2, line 41 *		A 24 B
X,D	---	1,3,4,8	
	US-A-3 396 735 (VON BETHMANN et al.) * Column 2, lines 38-49; column 4, lines 13-21; column 5, line 72 - column 6, line 17; claim 1 *		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 19-01-1990	Examiner LEPRETRE F.G.M.J.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	