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(54) **Cellulosic fibre - and chitosan-based composite material and a method for the preparation thereof.**

(57) The composite material of the invention is a sheet of cellulose fibres impregnated with chitosan of at least 40% deacetylation and further impregnated with a higher fatty acid such as stearic acid by treatment with an organic solution thereof. The composite sheet of the invention differs from conventional paper and films of plastic resins in having a high strength even in a wet condition and still is biodegradable, for example, in wet soils so that no problems of environmental pollution are caused by the waste thereof left in the environment. Therefore, the composite sheet of the invention is useful as a wrapping material for foods, a sheet material for agricultural use and other temporary or seasonal uses.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 88 31 2124

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.5)		
A	US-A-4 102 738 (J.A.DZURIK) * claims 1-9 * - - - - -	1-10	D 21 H 17/24 D 21 H 17/14		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)		
			D 21 H		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 31 January 91	Examiner FOUQUIER J.P.		
<table><tr><td>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</td><td>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</td></tr></table>				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
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