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(54) **Apparatus and method for dehumidifying products in pulp form by intensive evaporation**

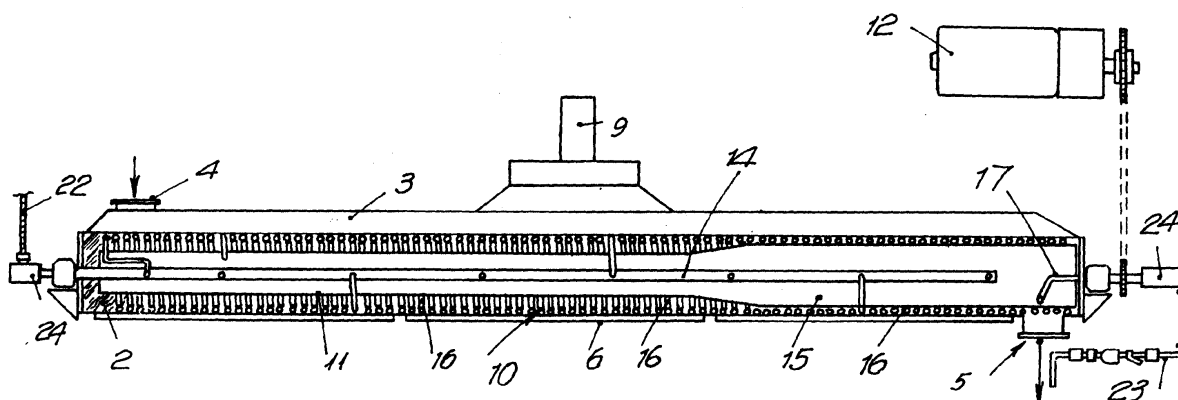
(57) The apparatus comprises a housing (1) inside which the pulp is transported, with a hood (9) for the extraction of vapours; means of heating the pulp by a heat-supplying fluid; and a device (10) for pulp conveyance through the housing (1), which consists in a rotating tubular core (11), on the outer surface of which is wound a spiral member (13) forming a worm screw for transportation of the pulp in the housing. In the tubular core (11) is a pipe (14) for feeding vapour, while on the spiral member (13) is fitted at least one coiled tube (16) through which there circulates steam from a connection

with the pipe (14) to a cylindrical chamber (15) where it is collected and from which the condensate is discharged to the exterior.

The method consists in providing heat to the pulp as it advances, making steam circulate through the interior of the advance mechanism (11,13) and/or through the coiled tube (16) and/or on the exterior of the housing (1).

The apparatus has a very high overall heat transmission coefficient, and therefore good thermal performance, achieving highly satisfactory degrees of drying.

FIG. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 50 0029

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.6)
X	WO 92 18214 A (REMEDIATION TECHNOLOGIES INC) 29 October 1992 * page 7, line 20 - page 9, line 24; figures * ---	1,2,5, 9-12,19, 20,22,24	D21C9/18 F26B17/20
X	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 8223 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class D15, AN 82-47009E XP002086199 & JP 57 070384 A (KURABO IND LTD) , 30 April 1982 * abstract; figures * ---	1,2,5, 19,23,24	
A	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 8833 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class J08, AN 88-234027 XP002086200 & SU 1 370 404 A (GEOR POLY) , 30 January 1988 * abstract * ---	1-3,8,9, 18-20,22	
A	US 3 877 365 A (BERGGREN LENNART) 15 April 1975 * the whole document * -----	1,6	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30 November 1998	Examiner Bernardo Noriega, F
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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