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(54) Title: SHELF-STABLE DAIRY MOUSSE

(57) Abstract: There is provided a shelf-stable dairy mousse in the form of an aerated oil-in- water emulsion, the shelf-stable dairy mousse comprising a dairy base, a fat source, an emulsiiier and a hydrocolloid-based stabilizer system. The total fat content is from about 0,5 to about 15 wt % of fat, this fat comprising milk fat and cocoa fat. A process of preparing said shelf-stable dairy mousse is also provided.

#### SHELF-STABLE DAIRY MOUSSE

#### Field of the invention

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The present invention relates to a dairy mousse, more particularly to a shelf-stable dairy mousse, i.e. a dairy mousse which does not need to be stored in a refrigerated environment, and to a process for manufacturing such a dairy mousse.

#### **Background of the invention**

Mousses (i.e. aerated food compositions) based on dairy products (i.e. milk food products), in the form of a foam obtained by whipping air or gas into a dairy base, are well known from the art.

Manufacturing a shelf-stable dairy product, having an acceptable aerated texture, is typically only possible when the dairy product has a low water activity (i.e. Aw less than 0.85), which often produces a firm chewy, undesirable texture, or if it is treated under specific functional and/or processing parameters.

Aerated dairy productshave generally a water activity (Aw) above 85%, and require refrigerated storage. Even then, they often have relatively short storage life. Examples of such refrigerated mousses are, for instance, the product Feuillete de Mousse under the brand La Laitiere® mentioned in XP-002669370, or other chocolate mousses disclosed in XP-002669371 (White Chocolate Flavoured Mousse, private label), XP—002669372 (Chocolate Mousse, private label).

WO 2006/067064 describes a shelf-stable mousse based on sweetened condensed milk aerated with an inert gas. The mousse contains a foam stabilizer, an emulsifier, dairy fat, such as anhydrous butter oil, and it has a fat content of less than 25% by weight. The mousse is filled in cans and is reported to have a shelf life of up to nine months. The mousse of WO 2006/067064 is based on sweetened condensed milk (SCM) containing a high sugar content of at least 60% sugar, and the resulting mousse product has a dry matter content of over 70%.

The mousses as described in WO 2006/067064 have the drawback that their organoleptic properties are not those of a chilled dairy mousse, for instance they have a sticky consistency.

DE 19860437 A1 describes to a food product, which can be consumed frozen and defrosted. The food product comprises (wt.%): whole milk (40-60), cream (20-40), skimmed milk powder (1-4), sugar (16-34), thickening agents (0.6-2.9) and pH regulators (0.6-1.1).

EP 1949796 A1 describes a shelf-stable mousse comprising an aerated oil-in-water emulsion characterised in that the mousse has a storage modulus at 20°C of less than 50,000 Pa. It also provides a process to prepare said mousse.

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EP 1889544 A1 describes an aqueous foam comprising water, at least one polysaccharide and food-grade, interfacially active particles. The present invention also describes an indulgent shelf-stable foamed food product comprising this aqueous foam. The indulgent shelf-stable foamed food products of the invention have an improved foamed and modular product texture.

EP 2181603 A2 describes a shelf stable, high moisture hot-aerated dairy product that comprises a mixture of about 10 to about 66% of a dairy component, about 20 to about 30% of a fat component, and about 0.5 to about 2.5% of a stabilizer system. The stabilizer system comprises at least a two gum system, where one gum is gelatin, or at least a three gum system, where one gum is either gelatin or carrageenan with the remaining gums being different. The mixture is aerated to about 2% to about 20% overrun while the mixture is still hot and is subsequently filled into packages at the high temperature, i.e., from about 140°F (60°C) to about 180°F (82°C). The resultant dairy product has a shelf life of at least 12 months when stored at ambient temperatures or at least 18 months when stored at refrigeration temperatures without requiring aseptic processing or packaging techniques.

EP 2181603 relates to an acid product with a maximum overrun of 20% only.

Thus, there remains a need for aerated dairy products having shelf stability and stable aerated structure, as well as the organoleptic properties of a chilled dairy mousse, such as similar whipped texture, creaminess, thickness, stickiness, melting in mouth, and freshness. The present invention provides such products.

It is an object of the invention to overcome the aforementioned drawbacks by providing a shelf-stable dairy mousse, with organoleptic properties comparable to a chilled dairy mousse.

### **Summary of the invention**

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The invention relates to a shelf-stable dairy mousse in the form of an aerated oil-in-water emulsion, the shelf-stable dairy mousse comprising a dairy base, a fat source, an emulsifier and a hydrocolloid-based stabilizer system, the shelf-stable dairy mousse being characterized in that the shelf-stable dairy mousse has a fat content from about 0,5 to about 15 wt % of fat (with respect to the shelf-stable dairy mousse), in that the fat source comprises, milk fat and cocoa fat, and in that the hydrocolloid-based stabilizer system is selected from the group consisting of agar-agar, alginates, carrageenan, caseinates, gelatine, gellan and combinations thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the fat source consists of milk fat and cocoa fat.

This shelf stable dairy mousse is for example a chocolate mousse.

The fat can be provided by the dairy base as dairy fat, and one or more fat origins. For example, milk fat can be provided by the dairy base and/or an added milk-fat fat source. In some embodiments, the dairy base is the source for the milk fat.

According to a preferred embodiment, the fat source comprisesmilk fat and cocoa butter. Preferably, the fat source consists essentially of milk fat and cocoa butter.

In an embodiment, the weight ratio of milk fat : vegetable fat varies from about 25:75 to about 60:40, preferably from about 30:70 to about 55:45, even more preferably from about 35:65 to about 50:50.

The fat content is preferably from about 4 to about 14 wt % with respect to the shelf-stable dairy mousse, even more preferably from about 8 % by weight to about 12 wt % by weight (wt %)

According to a preferred embodiment, the shelf-stable dairy mousse has a total sugar content of no more than about 40 wt %. For instance the total sugar content of the shelf-stable dairy mousse is from about 5 wt % to about 40 wt % with respect to the shelf-stable dairy mousse, preferably from about 5 wt % to about 30 wt %, even more preferably from about 10 wt % to about 25 wt %.

According to a preferred embodiment, the mousse has a water activity (Aw) of from about 0.70 to about 0.99, preferably from about 0.85 to about 0.99. High water activity values correspond to values found in refrigerated dairy mousses.

According to a preferred embodiment, the shelf-stable dairy mousse has an

overrun in the range from 10% to 200%, preferably from 50% to 190%, and more preferably from 50% to 170%.

According to a preferred embodiment, the hydrocolloid-based stabilizer system is selected from the group consisting of agar-agar, alginates, carrageenan, gelatine, and combinations thereof. In some embodiments the hydrocolloid-based stabilizer system is selected from agar-agar, alginates or combination thereof. In some embodiments the hydrocolloid-based stabilizer system is selected from alginates.

According to a preferred embodiment, the emulsifier is selected from the group consisting of mono- and di-glycerides of fatty acids, lactic acid esters of mono- and di-glyceride, sucroesters, polyglycerol esters of fatty acids, and combinations thereof.

According to a preferred embodiment the emulsifier is present in the shelf-stable dairy composition in the range from 0.1 wt % to 1 wt %, with respect to the shelf-stable dairy composition.

The shelf-stable dairy mousse has preferably a dry content of from 25% wt % to 48 wt %.

The invention also relates to a process of preparing a shelf-stable dairy mousse as described above. The process comprises the following and successive steps: mixing the dairy base, preferably a milk base, with the other ingredients, adjusting the pH, homogenising the mixture, carrying out a heat treatment, and cooling the mixture, which is further whipped. The heat treatment is usually carried out at a temperature ranging from 130°C to 155°C.

Preferably, the process further comprises a filling step of the shelf-stable dairy mousse into a container, generally under aseptic conditions, and then providing said shelf-stable dairy mousse in a container for ambient storage. Alternatively the shelf-stable dairy mousse in a container can be kept in an intermediate storage, usually at about 4°C to about 10°C, for about 12 to 24 hours, before its storage under ambient conditions.

### **Detailed description of the invention**

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Shelf-stable dairy mousses and methods of manufacture are provided. The shelfstable dairy mousse of the invention comprises a dairy base, a non-milk fat, an

emulsifier and a hydrocolloid-based stabilizer system. It can be aerated using any standard equipment used in the chilled dairy Industry as for example an equipment of the type MONDOMIX.

The stabilizer system according to the invention provides stability to the shelfstable dairy mousse, thus helping in maintaining its aerated structure.

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Additionally, the shelf-stable dairy mousse is easily "spoonable" so that it can easily be removed from the package for consumption, using for example, a spoon or cracker. Thus, the shelf-stable dairy mousse should have a water content comprised between 55% by weight and 75% by weight, preferably between 60% by weight and 70% by weight.

After packaging into an appropriate container, the dairy mousse made according to the invention, is shelf-stable. In other words, the dairy mousse is stable on storage at ambient temperatures, and does not require refrigeration or freezing during storage. The shelf-stable dairy mousse is stable on storage at room temperature (e.g. typical ambient storage temperatures of around 20°C) and up to about 30°C, for up to 3, preferably up to 6 months and even longer, for example from 6 to 12 months. In an embodiment, the dairy mousse is stable on storage at a temperature of about 20°C to 30°C, over at least 3 months up to 6 months, or even up to 12 months, or over at least 6 months up to 12 months. It is understood though, that once the container has been opened for consumption, the dairy mousse should be stored in refrigerated conditions and consumed within a few days, as is usual for dairy products, to avoid spoilage.

Overrun" refers to the increase in volume of the aerated shelf-stable product and also is referred to as a foaming capacity. It is measured according to the following equation: (volume of the food after aeration - volume of the food before aeration) / ((volume of the food before aeration). It is reported as a percentage value. "Aerated" (or "whipped") refers to the incorporation of a gas into a food material. For purposes herein, the gas is not particularly limited, and may be air, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and gas combinations thereof.

The dairy base is preferably chosen from the group consisting of milk powder, full fat milk, low or no fat milk, dairy cream, anhydrous milk fat, milk proteins powders, and combinations thereof. The dairy fat is usually provided with the dairy base, as an

ingredient of the dairy base. But the dairy fat can also be added, partially (in case the dairy base already comprises a dairy fat) or completely, to the dairy base.

The amount of the dairy base is important to maintain a good level of protein and fat in the final shelf-stable dairy mousse which, in combination with the emulsifier or combination of emulsifiers, contributes to the final sensory attributes of the aerated product. The content of dairy base, with respect to the shelf-stable dairy mousse, is usually from about 50 wt% to about 90 wt%, preferably from about 60 wt% to about 90 wt%.

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The emulsifier is usually of the type of mono- and di-glycerides of fatty acids, lactic acid esters of mono- and di-glyceride, sucroesters, polyglicerol esters of fatty acids and combinations thereof. Furthermore, it is generally present in the range from 0.1 wt % to 1 wt %.

The content of the hydrocolloid-based stabilizer system, with respect to the shelf-stable dairy mousse, is usually from 0.5 to about 2.5 wt %, preferably from about 0.5 wt % to about 2 wt %.

The fat can be provided in a total amount of preferably between from about 4 to 14 wt %, preferably from 8 to 12 wt %. As explained above, it can be provided by part of the dairy base. According to the invention, the fat comprises, preferably consists of, milk fat (such as milk cream and anhydrous milk fat) and vegetable fat. The vegetable fat is preferably based on cocoa fat, more preferably the vegetable fat is cocoa fat. Preferably, the cocoa fat is cocoa butter.

A method of making the shelf-stable dairy mousse according to the invention comprises mixing together the dairy base and the other ingredients, so that to form a dairy mixture. Preferably, the dairy base is provided as a liquid dairy base, such as milk. In an embodiment, the dairy base is provided as a dairy base powder. The other ingredients comprise the fat source, the emulsifier, and the hydrocolloid-based stabilizer system. Preferably, the other ingredients are provided as dry ingredients. When the dairy base and the other ingredients are provided as dry ingredients, they can be dry-mixed together, and then added into water. Another option is to dry-mix a premix of the other ingredients with the dairy base powder, and this dry-mix is then added into water. Yet another option is to successively add the dairy base powder, and the other

ingredients, as a premix or not, into water. When the dairy base is a liquid dairy base, the other ingredients can be added into the liquid dairy base, as a dry premix, or a liquid premix, or successively as dry powders or liquid ingredients. The amount of water is adjusted so that the shelf-stable dairy mousse has a minimum water content of 55% by weight, preferably 60% by weight. The water content in the shelf-stable dairy mousse should be below 75% by weight, to avoid collapsing of the mousse, and more preferably below 70% by weight.

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The dairy mixture, after pH adjustment, homogenisation and heat treatment, can be whipped to an overrun of about 10% to 200%, preferably from 50% to 190%, more preferably from 50% to 170%, for example of around 110%. Preferably, the dairy mixture is whipped at a temperature between 4°C and 15°C, preferably between 4°C and 10°C. The aerated shelf-stable dairy mousse is then filled into containers (or packages), preferably under aseptic conditions, at a temperature between about 10°C and about 20°C (for example around 15°C) and the packages are hermetically sealed. The packaged shelf-stable dairy mousse can be cooled down to provide a product having the sensory attributes of a chilled dairy mousse, such as similar whipped texture, creaminess, thickness, and stickiness, melting in mouth, and freshness. These organoleptic characteristics are usually comparative estimations established by a panel test of persons.

The one skilled in the art is able to carry out other methods of manufacturing the shelf-stable dairy mousse according to the invention.

The manufacturing process of the shelf-stable dairy mousse according to the invention is usually the following. First, the dry ingredients are combined with the dairy base, preferably a milk base, and mixed together to form a dairy mixture. If the dairy base is provided as a powder, the ingredients are mixed together with water. The amount of water, or of liquid dairy base, is adjusted to reach a dry matter content of from 25 wt % to 48 wt %. The pH of the dairy mixture can then be adjusted to a substantially neutral pH, from about 6 to about 7.5. The mixture is then homogenized and heated up to a temperature of from about 130°C to 155°C. This step is performed to remove microbial contamination, if any. The dairy mixture is then cooled, preferably to a temperature between 4°C and 15°C. The dairy mixture is then whipped to aerate the

mixture and obtain a dairy mousse. Then, the aerated shelf-stable dairy mousse is filled into packages and sealed, preferably under aseptic conditions. The shelf-stable dairy mousse can optionally be further cooled down from 12 to 24 hours at 4 to 10 °C inside its sealed package before being stored at ambient conditions.

For instance, the shelf-stable dairy mousse according to the invention can comprise about 50 to about 90 % dairy base, about 0.5 to about 15 wt % of fat, about 5 wt % to about 40 wt % sugar, preferably from about 5 wt % to about 30 wt % sugar and more preferably from 10 wt % to about 25 wt % sugar, 0.1 to 1 wt % of emulsifier, and 0.5 to about 2.5 wt % hydrocolloid-based stabilizer system.

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The sugar ingredient of the shelf-stable dairy mousse of the invention is usually natural sugar such as sucrose. Examples of natural sugars are saccharose, all types of syrup glucose or syrup fructose or natural extracts like stevia or rebaudioside A, and their combinations. However, the sugar ingredient can also comprise any sweetener. By "sweetener", one usually means an artificial sweetener. Examples of artificial sweeteners are aspartame, acesulfame, sucralose, saccharin, neotame, and their combinations. Mixtures of natural sugars and artificial sweeteners are also appropriate according to the invention to constitute the sugar ingredient.

The shelf-stable dairy mousse of the present invention has sufficient viscosity to maintain the aerated structure and the sensory attributes of a chilled dairy mousse. Preferably, the apparent viscosity of the dairy mixture before foaming, at a temperature of  $20^{\circ}$ C is ranging from  $10^{5}$  cP to 3x1  $0^{5}$  cP.

The viscosity was measured on a sample of the dairy mixture before foaming, after a resting time of at least 4h, to reach a temperature of about 20°C. Measurements were averaged over triplicate. The apparent viscosity of the mix is measured in centipoises (cP) using a Brookfield DV II+ viscosimeter (Brookfield engineering laboratories Inc.). The apparent viscosity is calculated with the product's resistance to a rotary penetration of a T-bar spindle from about 5mm of the surface.

The dairy mousses of the invention are shelf-stable on storage at ambient temperature (e.g. at temperatures around 20° C) and do not require refrigeration during the product shelf life (e.g. for up to 3 months, preferably up to 6 months and even longer, for example from 6 to 12 months). These shelf-stable dairy mousses are ideally

suited for use as on-the-go snacks. Moreover, they are ideally suited for use in areas where refrigerators are not available and/or unreliable.

The following examples describe and illustrate certain processes to prepare shelf-stable dairy mousses, which are chocolate mousses, according to the invention. These examples are intended to be merely illustrative and are not limiting in either scope or spirit. Those skilled in the art will readily understand that variations of the materials, conditions and processes described in this can be used. Unless otherwise noted, all percentages and ratios are by weight.

10 EXAMPLES

#### Example 1

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The manufacturing process of the chocolate mousse of Example 1 is the following: the dry ingredients are added to the milk base (which was pre-heated at 60°C), this bulk product is then mixed thoroughly for about 20 minutes and the pH is adjusted. The resulting mixture was then preheated to about 75°C. After homogenization at 110-250 bars (i.e. 11-25 MPa), the resulting mixture was preheated at 95°C and then heated at 130°C for 70 seconds. After that, it is cooled quickly to 85°C, then slowly from 60°C to 10°C. After storage under aseptic conditions, the resulting mixture was whipped under aseptic conditions so as to get an overrun of 110%. The sample was filled under aseptic conditions into containers at 15°C and then stored at 4°C for one day, before being stored at ambient temperature for 6 months.

A homogeneous, dairy chocolate mousse was obtained with the following characteristics:

dry matter content: 35%

25 - pH: 6.7

Water activity (Aw): about 0.98

fat content: 9%

- sugar content: 25%

- protein content: 4.6 %

30 - Overrun (OR): 110 %

- Texture and consistency: fresh, melting in mouth, sticky and thick mousse

The ingredients and two characteristics of the shelf-stable chocolate mousse of Example 1 are disclosed in the following Table 1.

Table 1

Ingredients	Mousse of Example 1
Skimmed milk liquid (wt %)	62,5
Sugar (wt %)	8,3
Emulsifier : lactic acid ester of mono and diglycerides (wt %)	0,3
Carrageenan (wt %)	0,1
Molten chocolate (wt %)	14,3
Starch (wt %)	0,9
Gelatine (wt %)	0,7
Cocoa Butter (wt %)	3,0
Milk cream liquid past 40% (wt %)	3,8
Caseinate Sodium Powder (wt %)	0,9
Agar (wt %)	0,2
Cocoa Powder (wt %)	3,3
Anhydrous Milk Fat Powder (wt %)	1,7
Total	100,0
Total fat content	9%
Ratio milk fat : cocoa fat	36% : 64%

## Example 2

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The process of Example 1 was repeated, using the ingredients described in Table 2 below, to produce the chocolate mousse of Example 2.

A homogeneous, chocolate mousse was obtained with the following 10 characteristics:

- dry matter content: 35%

- pH: 6.6

- Water activity (Aw): around 0.98

fat content: 5%

sugar content: 20 %
protein content: 3.8 %
Overrun (OR): 95 %

- Texture and consistency: fresh, melting in mouth, sticky and thick mousse

The ingredients and two characteristics of the shelf-stable chocolate mousse of Example 2 are disclosed in the following Table 2.

Table 2

Ingredients	Mousse of Example 2
Skimmed milk liquid bulk (wt %)	69,0
Sugar (wt %)	13,0
Molten Chocolate (wt %)	4,8
Cocoa Butter (wt %)	0,8
Milk cream liquid past 40% (wt %)	2,7
Cocoa Powder (wt %)	7,1
Anhydrous Milk Fat Powder (wt %)	1,3
Emulsifier lactic acid ester of mono and diglycerides (wt %)	0.3
Milk protein (wt %)	0,3
Sodium Alginate (wt %)	0,7
Total	100,0
Total fat content	5%
Ratio milk fat : cocoa fat	50% : 50%

The resulting products of examples 1 and 2 have both a good texture and were light and airy. The mousses of examples 1 and 2 retained their aerated aspect and sensory attributes similar to those of a chilled dairy chocolate mousse, even after 6 months storage at 25°C.

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#### CLAIMS

1. Shelf-stable dairy mousse in the form of an aerated oil-in-water emulsion, the shelf-stable dairy mousse comprising a dairy base, a fat source, an emulsifier and a hydrocolloid-based stabilizer system, characterized in that said shelf-stable dairy mousse has a fat content from about 0,5 to about 15 wt % of fat, in that the fat source comprises milk fat and cocoa fat, and in that the hydrocolloid-based stabilizer system is selected from the group consisting of agar-agar, alginates, carrageenan, caseinates, gellan, gelatin, and combinations thereof.

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- 2. A shelf-stable dairy mousse according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of milk fat: vegetable fat varies from about 25:75 to about 60:40.
- 3. A shelf-stable dairy mousse according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the emulsifier is selected from the group consisting of mono- and di-glycerides of fatty acids, lactic acid esters of mono- and di-glycerides, sucroesters, polyglycerol esters of fatty acids, and combinations thereof.
- 4. A shelf-stable dairy mousse according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the total fat content is from about 4 to about 14 wt % with respect to the shelf-stable dairy mousse.
  - 5. A shelf-stable dairy mousse according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the mousse has a water activity (Aw) of from about 0.70 to about 0.99.

- 6. A shelf-stable dairy mousse according to any one of claims 1 to 5, having an overrun in the range from 10% to 200%.
- 7. A shelf-stable dairy mousse according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein 30 the shelf-stable dairy mousse is a chocolate mousse.

8. A shelf-stable dairy mousse according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the shelf-stable dairy mousse has a dry content of from 25 wt % to 48 wt %.

- 9. A shelf-stable dairy mousse according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the fat source consists of milk fat and cocoa fat.
  - 10. A shelf-stable dairy mousse according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the shelf-stable dairy mousse has a sugar content of from about 5 wt % to about 40 wt % with respect to the shelf-stable dairy mousse.

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11. A shelf-stable dairy mousse according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the emulsifier is present in the range from 0.1 wt % to 1 wt %, with respect to the shelf-stable dairy mousse.

- 12. A shelf-stable dairy mousse according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the dairy base is present in the range from about 50 wt % to about 90 wt %, with respect to the shelf-stable dairy mousse.
- 13. A shelf-stable dairy mousse according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the hydrocolloid-based stabilizer system is present in the range from about 0.5 wt % to about 2.5 wt %, with respect to the shelf-stable dairy mousse.
  - 14. A process of preparing a shelf-stable dairy mousse as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, which comprises the following and successive steps: mixing the dairy base with the other ingredients in dry form, adjusting the pH, homogenising the mixture, carrying out a heat treatment, and cooling the mixture, which is further whipped.
  - 15. A process according to claim 14, which comprises a filling step of the shelf-stable dairy mousse into a container and then providing said shelf-stable dairy mousse in container for ambient storage.

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Minimum documentation

A23C A23L A23P A23G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal , WPI Data, BIOSIS, FSTA

C. DOCUME	NTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Х	DATABASE GNPD [Online] Mintel; 1 April 2009 (2009-04-01), Anonymous: "Chocol ate Mousse Dessert", XP002669370, retri eved from www.gnpd.com Database accessi on no. 1072288	1,3,4,7 , 9,14
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