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(54) Title: PROBIOTIC FOOD, PROCESS FOR ITS PREPARATION AND DIETARY REGIMEN

(57) Abstract: A probiotic food item containing a beneficial amount of dry active probiotic cultures is provided. The food item also contains a substantial continuous fat-based coating with an effectively low water activity level. The food item is packaged in a substantially moisture impermeable package marked with a use by or sell by date, so as to ensure a desired minimal amount of probiotic colony forming units (CFUs) on the use by or sell by date. Methods for manufacturing the probiotic food product are also provided.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/US2007/000590

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. A23L1/30 A23L1 A23L1/164 A23G3/54 A23G3/36 A23G1/42 A23G1/54 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) A23L 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 practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Belevant to claim No. X WO 97/16077 A (ED HAAS NAEHRMITTEL GES MBH 1-14,16,[AT]; KNEIFEL WOLFGANG [AT]; RAFFALT 17 JOSEF) 9 May 1997 (1997-05-09) Υ page 1, paragraphs 1,2 15 page 3, paragraph 6 page 4, paragraph 4 page 5, paragraph 2 page 7, paragraph 2 - page 8, paragraph 6 page 11; example 2 page 13; examples 6-8 page 15 - page 17; examples 1-14 Υ EP 1 481 682 A1 (NUTRICIA NV [NL]) 15 1 December 2004 (2004-12-01) page 2, paragraphs 1,2,8-10,18 page 3, paragraphs 26,28,33,40 page 5; examples 1,2,5 -/-l X l Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C See patent family annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention *E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the action. *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 12 October 2007 22/10/2007 Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Inceisa, Levent Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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