



(51) **International Patent Classification:**
A61B 5/00 (2006.01) *G01N 33/00* (2006.01)

(21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/EP20 14/074 142

(22) **International Filing Date:**
10 November 2014 (10.11.2014)

(25) **Filing Language:** English

(26) **Publication Language:** English

(30) **Priority Data:**
PCT/CN20 13/088221
29 November 2013 (29.11.2013) CN
1415 1028.9 14 January 2014 (14.01.2014) EP

(71) **Applicant** (for all designated States except AE, AG, AU, BB, BH, BN, BW, BZ, CA, CY, EG, GB, GD, GH, GM, IE, IL, IN, KE, KN, LC, LK, LS, MT, MW, MY, NA, NG, NZ, OM, PG, QA, RW, SA, SC, SD, SG, SL, SZ, TT, TZ, UG, US, VC, ZA, ZM, ZW): **UNILEVER N.V.** [NL/NL]; Weena 455, NL-3013 AL Rotterdam (NL).

(71) **Applicant** (for AE, AG, AU, BB, BH, BN, BW, BZ, CA, CY, EG, GB, GD, GH, GM, IE, IL, IN, KE, KN, LC, LK, LS, MT, MW, MY, NA, NG, NZ, OM, PG, QA, RW, SA, SC, SD, SG, SL, SZ, TT, TZ, UG, VC, ZA, ZM, ZW only): **UNILEVER PLC** [GB/GB]; a company registered in England and Wales under company no. 41424 of Unilever House, 100 Victoria Embankment, London, Greater London EC4Y 0DY (GB).

(71) **Applicant** (for US only): **CONOPCO, INC., D/B/A UNILEVER** [US/US]; 800 Sylvan Avenue, AG West, S. Wing, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632 (US).

(72) **Inventors:** **LING, Zihui**; Unilever (China) Investing Company, 66 Linxin Road, Linkong Economic Development Zone, Shanghai 200335 (CN). **BIAN, Xiaoying**; Unilever

(China) Limited, Shanghai Branch, No. 66 Linxin Road, Linkong Economic Development Zone, Shanghai 200335 (CN).

(74) **Agent:** **CHISEM, Janet**; Unilever Patent Group, Olivier van Noortlaan 120, NL-3133 AT Vlaardingen (NL).

(81) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(H))
- of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))



WO 2015/078686 A1

(54) **Title:** METHOD FOR DEMONSTRATING THE CAPABILITY OF STRENGTHENING SCALP AND/OR PREVENTING DANDRUFF

(57) **Abstract:** Disclosed is a method for demonstrating the capability of strengthening scalp and/or preventing dandruff of a personal care product or component thereof, the method comprising selecting a first portion of a solid porous article of non-animal origin, treating the first portion of the article with the personal care product or the component thereof, subjecting the treated first portion to a drying step and mechanically treating the dried first portion.

METHOD FOR DEMONSTRATING THE CAPABILITY OF STRENGTHENING SCALP
AND/OR PREVENTING DANDRUFF

5 **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a method for demonstrating the capability of strengthening scalp and/or preventing dandruff of a personal care product or component thereof. In particular, the method comprises selecting a first portion of a solid porous article of non-animal origin, treating the first portion of the article with the personal care product or the component thereof, subjecting the treated first portion to a drying step and mechanically treating the dried first portion.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Personal care products have been designed to improve the condition of skin or hair. Unfortunately, however, some benefits, for example scalp strengthening of such products may not be immediately perceived by a user and in fact may take many hours or even days of repeat application to yield consumer-perceivable benefits.

WO 2012/020043 A1 (Unilever) discloses an apparatus for analyzing the condition of skin, scalp or hair of a user, comprising a transducer device responsive to a property of the skin, scalp or hair providing an analog output related to the property, a serial device for outputting a digital signal from an audio signal input, wherein the audio signal is generated from the transducer analog output related to the property, and wherein the serial device provides data packet transmission sufficient for an application to find both a point at which a new packet begins and an opportunity to interpret its received raw data signal.

However, the instrumental measurements to evaluate the condition of scalp may be complicated and/or involve expensive laboratory equipment. Furthermore such measurements often result in numerical parameters that are difficult for laymen to understand or at least relate to the expected product efficacy.

The present inventors have thus identified a need to provide methods which can demonstrate the ability of strengthening scalp and/or preventing dandruff but which does not need specialist equipment and/or is easily related to consumer benefits.

5 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In a first aspect the present invention provides a method for demonstrating the capability of strengthening scalp and/or preventing dandruff of a personal care product or component thereof, the method comprising:

- (i) selecting a first portion of a solid porous article of non-animal origin;
- 10 (ii) treating the first portion of the article with the personal care product or the component thereof;
- (iii) subjecting the treated first portion to a drying step; and
- (iv) mechanically treating the dried first portion.

15 All other aspects of the present invention will more readily become apparent upon considering the detailed description and examples which follow.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

20 Except in the examples, or where otherwise explicitly indicated, all numbers in this description indicating amounts of material or conditions of reaction, physical properties of materials and/or use may optionally be understood as modified by the word "about".

All amounts are by weight of the product, unless otherwise specified.

25 It should be noted that in specifying any range of values, any particular upper value can be associated with any particular lower value.

30 For the avoidance of doubt, the word "comprising" is intended to mean "including" but not necessarily "consisting of" or "composed of". In other words, the listed steps or options need not be exhaustive.

The disclosure of the invention as found herein is to be considered to cover all embodiments as found in the claims as being multiply dependent upon each other

irrespective of the fact that claims may be found without multiple dependency or redundancy.

5 The method of the present invention comprises step (i) of selecting a first portion of a solid porous article of non-animal origin. Non-animal origin as used herein means that the article is not derived from animal. It should be noted that animal includes human being. Porous article means any article having pore on surface and/or void in body. Solid refers to the state at ambient environment (25°C and atmospheric pressure).

10 Preferably, the article comprises artificial skin, polyurethane, cellulose, polysaccharide, plant tissue, food made by flour, paper, sponge, or a combination thereof. The plant tissue may be an entire plant, flowers, leaves, petals, stems, fruits, seeds or roots, and/or the fragments thereof. The food made by flour may be selected from bread, cake, wafer, cookie, potato chip, cereal, or combination thereof. More preferably, the
15 article comprises artificial skin, plant leaf, plant petal, fruit skin, bread, fungi [especially jelly fungi (*Aunculariales*)], or a combination thereof as they are thin but with a large surface area and therefore dry relatively quickly. Even more preferably the article comprises artificial skin, jelly fungi (*Aunculariales*) and bread. Most preferred article includes artificial skin and jelly fungi (*Aunculariales*) because they are fragile when
20 undergoing mechanically interaction.

To be visible to naked eye and/or prone to mechanical treatment, the length of the first portion of the article is preferably from 1 mm to 10 m, more preferably from 5 mm to 2 m, even more preferably from 1 cm to 60 cm, and most preferably from 2 cm to 30 cm.

25 Herein the length refers to the longest distance of any point of the first portion of the article.

30 Meanwhile, to effectively absorb the personal care product or component thereof, the article preferably has a pore size of from 10 nm to 2 mm, more preferably from 100 nm to 500 microns, even more preferably from 500 nm to 200 microns. The pore size refers to the largest measureable distance of the pore along the largest surface of the article in the event that the pore is not well-defined sphere. It may be measured for

example by scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The value of the pore size is obtained as number average value of at least ten pores.

5 The method of the present invention comprises step (ii) of treating the first portion of the article with the personal care product or the component thereof.

10 The treatment comprises at least contacting the first portion with the product or component. The contact may, for example, comprise spreading the product or component on at least one surface of the first portion. Additionally or alternatively the contact may comprise soaking the first portion in a liquid comprising the product or component. The treatment may also comprise rinsing the first portion following contact with the product or component.

15 The duration of the treatment step (ii), i.e., the time between starting to apply the personal care product or component to the article and commencement of the drying step (iii), is preferably between 1 s and 24 hours. However, the method may be especially suitable for situations where rapid demonstration of product efficacy is desired, such as for example, in-store and/or at point of sale. Thus it is preferred that the duration of the treatment step is less than 2 hours, more preferably less than 20 hour, more preferably still less than 30 minutes and most preferably less than 10 minutes. However, to show the difference effectively, the duration of the treatment step is more preferably at least 10s, and even more preferably at least 30s.

25 The personal care product is preferably one intended for application to the hair and/or skin for the purpose of improving the condition thereof. In particular the product is preferably intended to improve a condition of hair and/or skin selected from scalp strengthening, nourishment, barrier function, moisture retention, resilience, anti-dandruff, and combinations thereof. Preferably the product is a hair care product, especially a hair care product intended to improve the condition of the scalp.

30

In a preferred embodiment the first portion is treated with a component of the personal care product in step (ii). Treating the portion with the component rather than the entire product allows, for example, the component to be applied to the portion in a higher

concentration than in the product and/or to be applied in a different manner than would be achieved by applying the whole product. Thus the capability of strengthening scalp and/or preventing dandruff of the component can be enhanced such that the same may be demonstrated in a short time. Preferably the first portion of the article is treated with an aqueous liquid comprising the component. More preferably the concentration of the component by weight of the aqueous liquid is greater than the concentration of the component by weight of the personal care product. For example the concentration of the component by weight of the aqueous liquid may be at least twice, more preferably at least three times, more preferably still at least five times and most preferably at least ten times the concentration of the component by weight of the personal care product.

The component should be associated with the product in some manner. By "associated" is meant that the method preferably comprises a step of identifying the component as an ingredient of the product. For example, prior to step (i) the method may comprise a step of selecting a component of the personal care product for assessment. Additionally or alternatively, the method may comprise a step of communicating the component as an ingredient of the personal care product through indicia such as text, video, audio and the like.

The component should be selected to be a component which may provide scalp strengthening, nourishment, barrier function, moisture retention, anti-dandruff or combinations thereof. For example the component preferably is or at least comprises a humectant, emollient, bioactive or combination thereof. For sake of clarity, typically the component is not water. More preferably the component comprises or is polyhydric alcohol, fatty materials (such as oils, fatty alcohols, fatty acids and/or soaps), ester emollient, hydrocarbon emollient, silicone oil, vitamin, amino acid, plant extract, or a mixture thereof. Most preferably, the component comprises polyhydric alcohol

Preferred polyhydric alcohols include polyalkylene glycols and more preferably alkylene polyols and their derivatives, including propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polyethylene glycol and derivatives thereof, sorbitol, hydroxypropyl sorbitol, hexylene glycol, 1,3-butylene glycol, isoprene glycol, 1,2,6-

hexanetriol, glycerol, ethoxylated glycerol, propoxylated glycerol and mixtures thereof. Most preferred is glycerol (also known as glycerin).

5 Silicone oils may be divided into the volatile and nonvolatile variety. The term "volatile" as used herein refers to those materials which have a measurable vapor pressure at ambient temperature (25 °C). Volatile silicone oils are preferably chosen from cyclic (cyclomethicone) or linear polydimethylsiloxanes containing from 3 to 9, preferably from 4 to 5, silicon atoms.

10 Nonvolatile silicone oils useful as an emollient material include polyalkyl siloxanes, polyalkylaryl siloxanes and polyether siloxane copolymers. The essentially nonvolatile polyalkyl siloxanes useful herein include, for example, polydimethyl siloxanes with viscosities of from about 5×10^{-6} to $0.1 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$ at 25 °C. Among the preferred nonvolatile emollients useful in the present compositions are the polydimethyl siloxanes having
15 viscosities from about 1×10^{-5} to about $4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$ at 25 °C.

Organopolysiloxane crosspolymers can be usefully employed. Representative of these materials are dimethicone/vinyl dimethicone crosspolymers and dimethicone crosspolymers available from a variety of suppliers including Dow Corning (9040, 9041 ,
20 9045, 9506 and 9509), General Electric (SFE 839), Shin Etsu (KSG-15, 16 and 18 [dimethicone/phenyl vinyl dimethicone crosspolymer]), and Grant Industries (Gransil brand of materials), and lauryl dimethicone/vinyl dimethicone crosspolymers supplied by Shin Etsu (e.g. KSG-31 , KSG-32, KSG-41 , KSG-42, KSG-43 and KSG-44).

25 Specific examples of fatty materials include stearyl alcohol, glyceryl monoricinoleate, mink oil, cetyl alcohol, isopropyl isostearate, stearic acid, isobutyl palmitate, isocetyl stearate, oleyl alcohol, isopropyl laurate, hexyl laurate, decyl oleate, octadecan-2-ol, isocetyl alcohol, eicosanyl alcohol, behenyl alcohol, cetyl palmitate, di-n- butyl sebacate, isopropyl myristate, isopropyl palmitate, isopropyl stearate, butyl stearate,
30 polyethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, lanolin, cocoa butter, corn oil, cotton seed oil, olive oil, palm kernel oil, rape seed oil, safflower seed oil, evening primrose oil, soybean oil, sunflower seed oil, avocado oil, sesame seed oil, coconut oil, arachis oil, castor oil, acetylated lanolin alcohols, petroleum jelly, mineral oil, butyl myristate,

isostearic acid, palmitic acid, isopropyl linoleate, lauryl lactate, myristyl lactate, decyl oleate, myristyl myristate, and mixtures thereof.

Among the ester emollients are:

5

a) Alkenyl or alkyl esters of fatty acids having 10 to 20 carbon atoms. Examples thereof include isoarachidyl neopentanoate, isodecyl neopentanoate, isononyl isonanoate, cetyl ricinoleate, oleyl myristate, oleyl stearate, and oleyl oleate.

10

b) Ether-esters such as fatty acid esters of ethoxylated fatty alcohols.

15

c) Polyhydric alcohol esters. Butylene glycol, ethylene glycol mono and di-fatty acid esters, diethylene glycol mono- and di-fatty acid esters, polyethylene glycol (200-6000) mono- and di-fatty acid esters, propylene glycol mono- and di-fatty acid esters, polypropylene glycol 2000 monooleate, polypropylene glycol 2000 monostearate, ethoxylated propylene glycol monostearate, glyceryl mono- and di-fatty acid esters, polyglycerol poly-fatty esters, ethoxylated glyceryl mono-stearate, 1,3-butylene glycol monostearate, 1,3-butylene glycol distearate, polyoxyethylene polyol fatty acid ester, sorbitan fatty acid esters, and polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters are satisfactory polyhydric alcohol esters. Particularly useful are pentaerythritol, trimethylolpropane and neopentyl glycol esters of $C_{11}-C_{30}$ alcohols. Exemplative is pentaerythrityl tetraethylhexanoate.

20

d) Wax esters such as beeswax, spermaceti wax and tribehenin wax.

25

e) Sterols esters, of which cholesterol fatty acid esters are examples thereof.

f) Sugar ester of fatty acids such as sucrose polybehenate and sucrose polycottonseedate.

30

Hydrocarbons which are useful include petrolatum, mineral oil, $C_{11}-C_{13}$ isoparaffins, polyalphaolefins, and especially isohexadecane.

Vitamins may be lipid-soluble vitamins and water-soluble vitamins but preferably vitamins are water soluble. "Water soluble vitamins" as used herein refers to vitamins that dissolve in water to give a solution with a concentration of at least 1 gram per liter at 25°C. Exemplary water-soluble vitamins include ascorbic acid (vitamin C), thiamin (vitamin B-1) niacin (nicotinic acid), niacinamide (vitamin B₃), riboflavin (vitamin B₂),
5 pantothenic acid (vitamin B₅), biotin, folic acid, pyridoxine (vitamin B₆), and cyanocobalamin (vitamin B12).

Examples of suitable amino acids include arginine, cysteine, glutamine, glutamic acid,
10 isoleucine, leucine, methionine, serine and valine, and/or precursors and derivatives thereof.

The method of the present invention comprises step (iii) of subjecting the treated first portion to a drying step.

15

The drying step (iii) may comprise contacting the treated first portion with hot air, leaving the first portion in ambient air, vacuum drying the first portion, ironing the first portion or a combination thereof. Ambient as used herein means at environmentally temperature, often 25°C, and at atmospheric pressure. Hot air as used herein refers to
20 air having temperature higher than 25°C. It is preferred that the way of drying comprises contacting the treated first portion with hot air, leaving the treated first portion in ambient air or combination thereof. Contacting the treated first portion with hot air preferably includes placing the treated first portion into oven and/or blowing the treated first portion with a drier. In certain embodiments, it is preferred that the drying
25 step is conducted under atmospheric pressure.

To provide even more rapid drying and/or be convenient to operate it is preferred that the drying temperature is from -50 to 300°C, more preferably from 0 to 200°C, even more preferably from 25 to 150 °C and most preferably from 40 to 100°C. The duration
30 of the drying step is typically from 1 second and 200 hours, more preferably from 1 minute to 50 hours, even more preferably from 5 minutes to 20 hours, and most preferably from 15 minutes to 6 hour.

When the way of drying comprises contacting the treated first portion with hot air, the duration of the drying step is preferably at least 1 second, more preferably at least 10 seconds, even more preferably from 2 minute to 10 hours, still even more preferably from 2 minutes to 5 hours, most preferably from 10 minutes to 2 hour. The hot air
5 preferably has a temperature of 30 to 200°C, more preferably from 35 to 120°C, and even more preferably from 35 to 80°C, most preferably from 40 to 60°C.

When the way of drying naturally at ambient environment is employed, the duration of the drying step is preferably at least 1 hour, more preferably at least 5 hours, even
10 more preferably from 10 to 100 hours.

The method of the present invention comprises step (iv) of mechanically treating the dried first portion. Preferably, the mechanical treatment comprising the step of applying a force of at least 50 μ N, more preferably from 500 μ N to 100N, even more preferably
15 from 5mN to 10N, most preferably from 50 mN to 4N. The force is preferably a normal force.

Preferably, the way of mechanical treatment comprises combing, scratching, folding, tearing, kneading or a combination thereof, more preferably combing folding kneading
20 or a combination thereof. The even more preferred mechanical treatment comprises combing, folding or a combination thereof. Where the combing is employed, any comb for human being and/or animal may be used. It is preferred that combing is conducted by an ordinary comb for human being. Where the mechanical treatment comprises a folding step, it is preferred that the mechanical treatment also comprises an unfolding
25 step.

Following step (iv), the method may comprise a step (v) of assessing at least one attribute of the treated first portion. Preferably the attribute assessed is appearance, such as size, shape, surface texture, colour, marks, integrity, transparency or a
30 combination thereof. Preferably, the appearance is assessed via observing by human naked eye directly. Additionally or alternatively, the appearance is assessed by taking images and/or videos with magnification of no greater than 100 times, preferably less

than 10 times. Integrity could include the presence/amount of flakes. Additionally or alternatively, the attribute assessed is weight.

5 The method of the present invention is particularly effective when used to evaluate the capability of strengthening scalp and/or preventing dandruff of the personal care product or the component relative to a placebo product. Thus in a most preferred embodiment the method comprises selecting a second portion of the article in step (i);
10 treated the second portion with a placebo product in step (ii); treating the second treated portion to the drying step (iii), and the second dried portion is also mechanically treated in step (iv).

The second portion should be substantially identical to the first portion, for example in respect of the type of the article as well as length and pore size.

15 Placebo as used herein means product which have no or lower levels of component than that of the personal care product or component to be tested. The placebo may be any composition different from the personal care product or component to be tested. However, it is preferred that the concentration of the component by weight of the placebo product is no greater than half (1/2), more preferably one quarter (1/4), and
20 most preferably one tenth (1/10) of the concentration of the component by weight of the personal care product or component to be tested. Most preferably the placebo is water (or at least comprises at least 99% water by weight of the placebo product, more preferably 99.9 to 100%).

25 The assessed attribute in step (v) is preferably a change in a characteristic of the treated first portion relative to untreated article and/or relative to the treated second portion. The characteristic is preferably appearance and/or weight, more preferably marks, integrity and/or weight.

30 The following examples are provided to facilitate an understanding of the invention. The examples are not intended to limit the scope of the claims.

EXAMPLES

Example 1

A test sample was prepared by mixing 8 g of glycerine, 0.48g of sunflower oil and 31.52g of water. The placebo was 40g of water. One piece of artificial skin (3cm x 3cm, VITRO-SKIN® IMS Inc. USA) was placed into the test sample and another identical piece was placed into the placebo. After soaking for 10 minutes, the two pieces of artificial skin were removed from the test sample and placebo, spread apart in two identical plates, and placed under ambient environment (atmospheric pressure, 25°C, and 50% of relative humidity) for 16 hours. Then, these two pieces of artificial skin were folded and unfolded once by human hand.

It was observed that the piece of artificial skin treated by the placebo had been broken into a few pieces, showing that the artificial skin was fragile. However, it was found that the piece treated by the test sample remained intact, demonstrating the strengthening of artificial skin.

Example 2

The preparation of test sample, placebo, and the soaking process was identical with that in Example 1. Then these two pieces of artificial skin was dried under ambient environment (atmospheric pressure, 25°C, and 50% of relative humidity) for 48 hours and were scratched 20 times each using a metal comb with similar force to mimic scalp/hair combing.

It was observed that there were very clear scratch marks on the artificial skin treated by placebo, and flakes had fallen off from the artificial skin treated by placebo, manifesting that it was brittle. In contrast, there was no noticeable scratch mark and flake on the artificial skin treated by the test sample, showing the strengthening of artificial skin.

Example 3

The test and findings were similar with that of Example 2 except that the drying step was conducted at 50°C in oven for 2 hours.

Example 4

Test sample 1 (s1) was prepared by mixing 20g of glycerine, 0.4g of sunflower oil and 19.6g of water. Test sample 2 (s2) was prepared by mixing 20g of CLEAR® Shampoo, and 20 g of water. The shampoo comprises 0.5% by weight of glycerine and 0.1% by weight of sunflower oil. The placebo was 40g of water.

Three snow fungi (*Tremella fuciformis*) were placed into S1, S2, and placebo respectively. After soaking for 1 minute, they were removed from the test samples and placebo, and blown by ordinary hair drier for 5 minutes. Then, these treated snow fungi were scratched 10 times each by an ordinary comb for human use.

It was observed that the snow fungus treated by the placebo had been broken into a few pieces, showing that the fungus was fragile. In contrast, it was found that the snow fungi treated by both S1 and S2 remained intact, demonstrating the snow fungi were nourished and strengthened by both S1 and S2.

Example 5

The test and findings were identical with that of Example 2 except that two pieces of bread (8cmx8cmx0.8cm) were employed instead of artificial skin.

Claims

1. A method for demonstrating the capability of strengthening scalp and/or preventing dandruff of a personal care product or component thereof, the method comprising:
 - (i) selecting a first portion of a solid porous article of non-animal origin;
 - (ii) treating the first portion of the article with the personal care product or the component thereof;
 - (iii) subjecting the treated first portion to a drying step; and
 - (iv) mechanically treating the dried first portion.
2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the article comprises artificial skin, polyurethane, cellulose, polysaccharide, plant tissue, food made by flour, paper, sponge, or a combination thereof, preferably artificial skin.
3. The method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the length of the first portion of the article is from 1 mm to 10 m, more preferably from 2 cm to 60 cm.
4. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the article has a pore size of from 10 nm to 2mm, preferably from 100 nm to 500 microns.
5. The method accord to any one of the preceding claims wherein the method is for demonstrating the capability of strengthening scalp and/or preventing dandruff of the component of the personal care product and wherein in step (ii) the first portion of the article is treated with an aqueous liquid comprising the component.
6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the concentration of the component by weight of the aqueous liquid is greater than the concentration of the component by weight of the personal care product.
7. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the duration of the treatment step (ii) is between 10 s and 24 hours, preferably between 30 s and 10 minutes.

8. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the duration of the drying step (iii) is from 1 second and 200 hours, more preferably from 5 minutes to 20 hours.
9. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the drying step (iii) comprises contacting the treated first portion with hot air, leaving the treated first portion in ambient air or combination thereof.
10. The method according to claim 9 wherein drying comprises contacting the treated first portion with hot air and the hot air has a temperature of 35 to 120°C.
11. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein in step (iv) the mechanical treatment comprises combing, scratching, folding, tearing, kneading or a combination thereof, preferably combing and/or folding.
12. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the product is a hair care product.
13. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the component comprises or is polyhydric alcohol, fatty materials, ester emollient, hydrocarbon emollient, silicone oil, vitamin, amino acid, plant extract, or a mixture thereof.
14. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein a second portion of the article is selected in step (i); the second portion is treated with a placebo product in step (ii); the second treated portion is treated to the drying step (iii), and the second dried portion is also mechanically treated in step (iv).
15. The method according to claim 14 wherein the placebo is water.
16. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein following step (iv) the method comprises a step (v) of assessing at least one attribute of the treated first portion.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the assessed attribute is a change in a characteristic of the treated first portion relative to untreated article and/or relative to the treated second portion.
18. The method according to claim 17 wherein the characteristic is appearance, weight, or combination thereof.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2014/074142

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61B5/00 G01N33/00
 ADD.
 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
A61B G01N

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 , BIOSIS, EMBASE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	BHARAT BHUSHAN ET AL: "Surface, tri bol ogi cal , and mechani cal characteri zati on of syntheti c ski ns for tri bol ogi cal appl i cati ons i n cosmeti c sci ence", JOURNAL OF APPLI ED POLYMER SCI ENCE, vol . 120, no. 5, 10 January 2011 (2011-01-10) , pages 2881-2890, XP055122523, ISSN: 0021-8995 , DOI : 10. 1002/app. 33340 qbstract chapter "EXPERIMENTAL" figures tabl es ----- -/--	1-18

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

<p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"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)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>	<p>"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 invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"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 art</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>
---	---

Date of the actual completion of the international search 12 January 2015	Date of mailing of the international search report 19/01/2015
---	---

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Rosi n, Ol i ver
--	---

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/EP2014/074142

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>BHARAT BHUSHAN : "Nanotri bol ogi cal and nanomechani cal properti es of ski n with and without cream treatment usi ng atomi c force mi croscopy and nanoi ndentati on" , JOURNAL OF COLLOID AND INTERFACE SCI ENCE, ACADEMIC PRESS, NEW YORK, NY, US, vol . 367 , no. 1 , 7 October 2011 (2011-10-07) , pages 1-33 , XP028393696, ISSN: 0021-9797 , DOI : 10.1016/J .JCIS. 2011 .10.019 [retri eved on 2011-10-15] chapters 1.3; 2.2-2 .4; 2.7; 3-7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	1-18
X	<p>L-C GERHARDT ET AL: " Fabri cati on , Characteri sati on and Tri bol ogi cal Investi gati on of Arti ficial Ski n Surface Lipid Fi lms" , TRIBOLOGY LETTERS, KLUWER ACADEMIC PUBLISHERS-PLENUM PUBLISHERS, NE, vol . 34, no. 2 , 12 February 2009 (2009-02-12) , pages 81-93 , XP019689803 , ISSN: 1573-2711 abstract</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	1-18
T	<p>w0 2005/065551 A2 (JOHNSON & JOHNSON CONSUMERS CO [US] ; BURROWS MARK [US] ; COLE CURTIS [U] 21 July 2005 (2005-07-21)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/EP2014/074142

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
wo 2005065551 A2	21-07-2005	AU 2004312031 AI	21-07 -2005
		BR PI0418132 A	17-04-2007
		CA 2550504 AI	21-07-2005
		CN 101128136 A	20-02 -2008
		CN 101803821 A	18-08-2010
		CN 102018553 A	20-04-2011
		EP 1699365 A2	13-09-2006
		EP 2263580 A2	22-12-2010
		IL 176428 A	29-02-2012
		JP 5026085 B2	12-09 -2012
		JP 2007520269 A	26-07 -2007
		KR 20070065252 A	22-06 -2007
		US 2005142093 AI	30-06-2005
		US 2005148833 AI	07-07 -2005
		US 2005148906 AI	07-07 -2005
		US 2005148907 AI	07-07 -2005
		US 2005148908 AI	07-07 -2005
		US 2005148910 AI	07-07 -2005
		US 2009149822 AI	11-06 -2009
		US 2011087158 AI	14-04-2011
		wo 2005065551 A2	21-07-2005

专利名称(译)	用于证明强化头皮和/或预防头皮屑的能力的方法		
公开(公告)号	EP3073899A1	公开(公告)日	2016-10-05
申请号	EP2014796092	申请日	2014-11-10
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	荷兰联合利华有限公司 联合利华英国CENT资源		
申请(专利权)人(译)	UNILEVER N.V. 联合利华		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	UNILEVER N.V. 联合利华		
[标]发明人	LING ZIHUI BIAN XIAOYING		
发明人	LING, ZIHUI BIAN, XIAOYING		
IPC分类号	A61B5/00 G01N33/00		
CPC分类号	G01N3/56 C12Q1/025 G01N3/24 G01N2203/0298 G01N2333/375		
代理机构(译)	CHISEM, 珍妮特		
优先权	2014151028 2014-01-14 EP PCT/CN2013/088221 2013-11-29 WO		
其他公开文献	EP3073899B1		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

公开了一种用于证明强化头皮和/或防止个人护理产品或其组分的头皮屑的能力的方法，该方法包括选择非动物来源的固体多孔制品的第一部分，处理制品的第一部分使用个人护理产品或其组件，对处理过的第一部分进行干燥步骤，并机械处理干燥的第一部分。