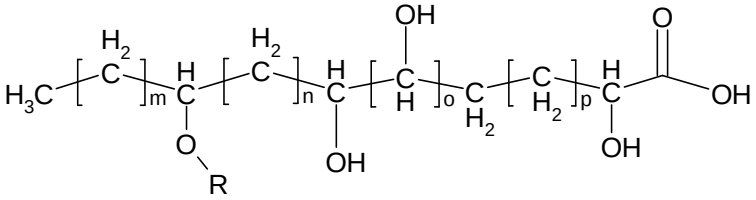
Patent claims:

1. A composition comprising

(i) a glycolipid component comprising at least one antimicrobial glycolipid according to general formula (I)



(I)

wherein

m is 3 to 5;

n is 2 to 5;

o is 0 or 1; and

p is 3 to 17;

with the proviso that the sum m + n + o + p is not less than 14; and

R is a carbohydrate moiety bound via one of its carbon atoms to the binding oxygen;

or an ester thereof in open chain form, wherein any of the hydroxyl groups of general formula (I) including any of the hydroxyl groups of the carbohydrate moiety R is intermolecularly esterified with a carboxylic acid;

and/or an ester thereof in form of a lactone intramolecularly formed between the terminal carboxylic acid group of general formula (I) with any of the hydroxyl groups of general formula (I) including any of the hydroxyl groups of the carbohydrate moiety R;

and/or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof; and

(ii) a formulation component comprising at least one formulation stabilizer;

wherein the relative weight ratio of said formulation component to said glycolipid component is within the range of from 100:1 to 1:2, based on the total weight of all antimicrobial glycolipids according to general formula (I) in the composition and based on the total weight of all formulation stabilizers in the composition.

2. The composition according to claim 1, wherein said at least one antimicrobial glycolipid according to general formula (I) is an ester in open chain form, wherein the carboxylic acid is a C_3-C_{10}-alkanoic acid.

3. The composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the formulation component comprises or consists of a formulation stabilizer selected from cyclodextrins.

4. The composition according to claim 3, wherein the cyclodextrin is selected from alpha-cyclodextrin, beta-cyclodextrin, hydroxypropyl-beta-cyclodextrin and methyl-beta-cyclodextrin.

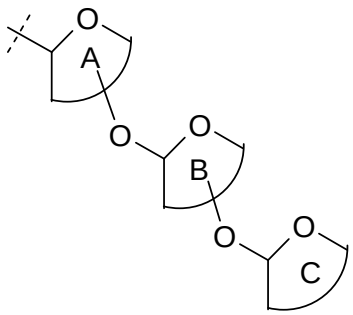
5. The composition according to claim 4, wherein the relative weight ratio of said cyclodextrin to said glycolipid component is within the range of from 5:1 to 2.5:1

6. The composition according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the formulation component comprises or consists of a formulation stabilizer selected from polysorbates.

7. The composition according to claim 6, wherein the polysorbate is selected from the group consisting of polysorbate 20, polysorbate 21, polysorbate 40, polysorbate 60, polysorbate 61, polysorbate 65, polysorbate 80, polysorbate 81, polysorbate 85, polysorbate 120, and a mixture of any of the foregoing.

8. The composition according to claim 7, wherein the relative weight ratio of said polysorbate to said glycolipid component is within the range of from in the range of from 20:1 to 8:1.

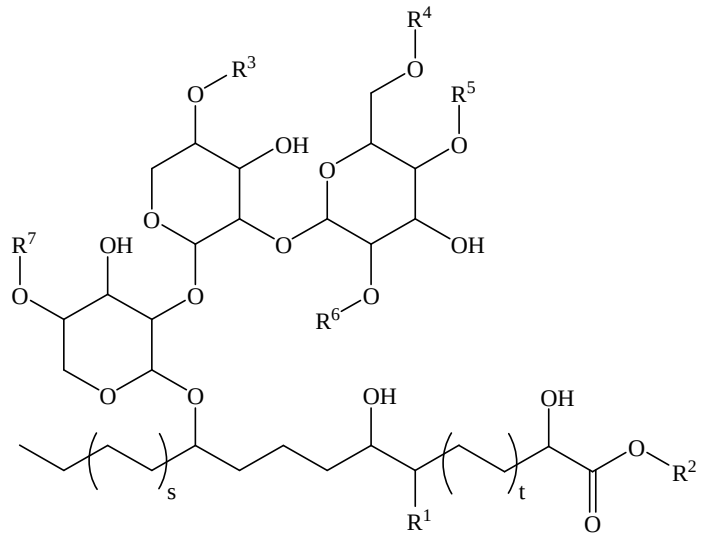
9. The composition according to any of the preceding claims, wherein R is a moiety of the subformula



wherein the rings A, B and C are monosaccharide moieties each independently from the others with 5 or 6 ring members, wherein one or more of the hydroxyl groups may be acylated.

10. The composition according to claim 9, wherein rings A and B are xylopyranose moieties and ring C is a glucopyranose moiety.

11. The composition according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one antimicrobial glycolipid is according to general formula (II)



(II)

wherein

s is 1 or 2;

t is 6 or 7;

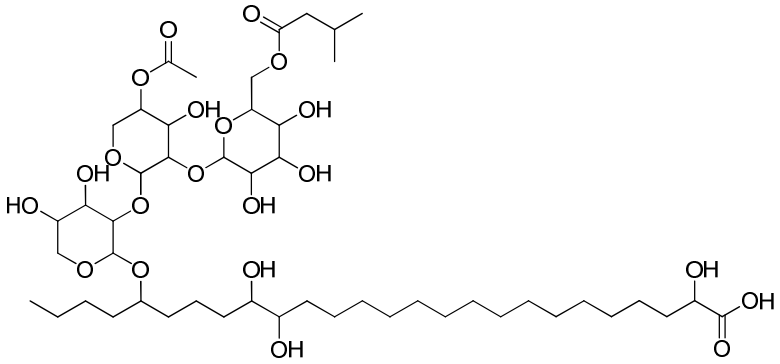
R^1 means -H or -OH;

R^2 means -H or -C_1-C_6-alkyl; and

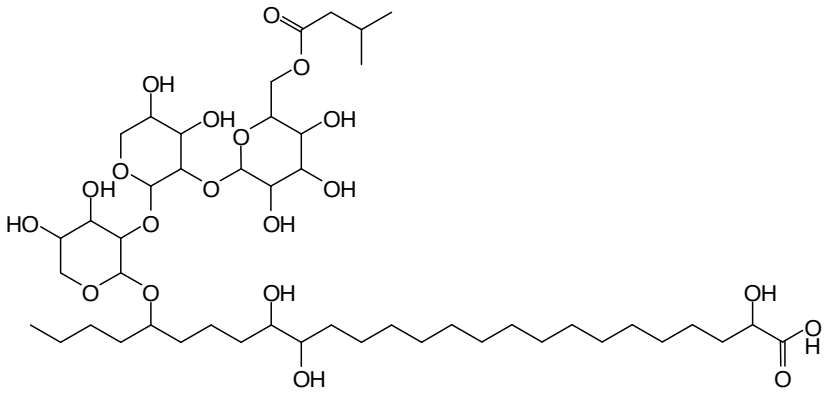
R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 independently of one another mean -H or -C(=O)C_1-C_6-alkyl.

12. The composition according to claim 11, wherein at least one of R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 means -C(=O)C_1-C_6-alkyl.

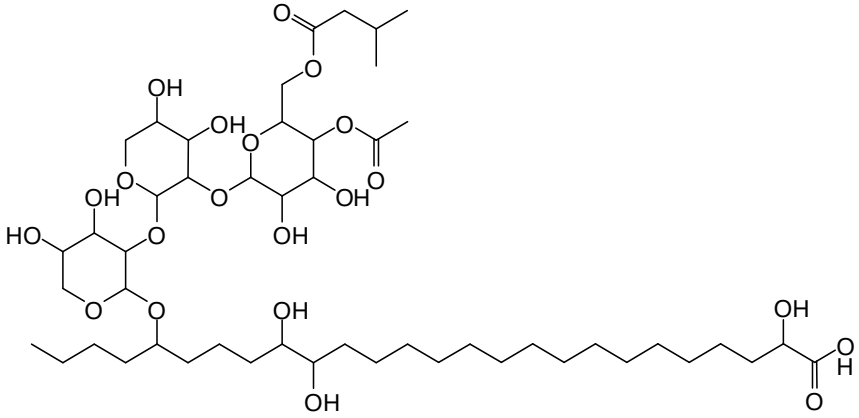
13. The composition according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one antimicrobial glycolipid is selected from compounds (II-A) to (II-D)



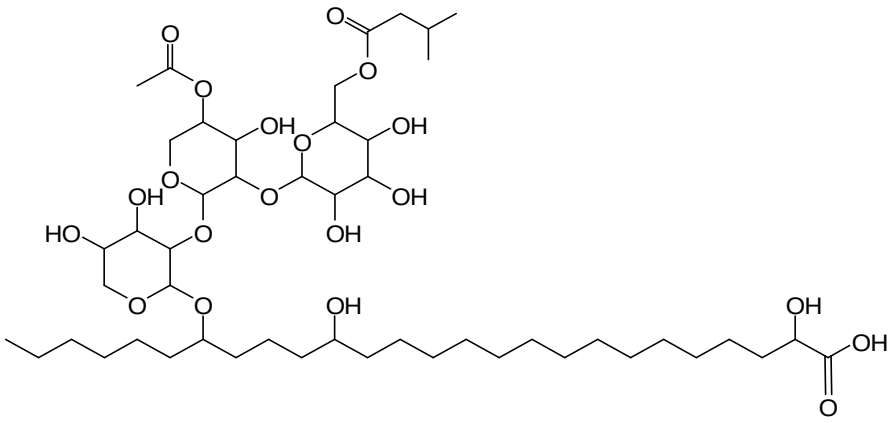
(II-A)



(II-B)



(II-C)



(II-D)

and the physiologically acceptable salts thereof and the mixtures thereof.

14. The composition according to claim 13, wherein

- the relative weight content of the first antimicrobial glycolipid according to general formula (II) is within the range of from 30 to 50 wt.-%;
- the relative weight content of the second antimicrobial glycolipid according to general formula (II) is within the range of from 20 to 50 wt.-%;
- the relative weight content of the third antimicrobial glycolipid according to general formula (II) is within the range of from 5 to 10 wt.-%;

relative to the total weight of all antimicrobial glycolipids that are comprised in the glycolipid component.

15. An orally consumable water based product comprising the composition according to any of the preceding claims.

16. Use of a composition according to any of claims 1 to 14 for preserving an orally consumable water based product comprising the composition according to claim 15.