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(54) Title: INSECT REPELLENT COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING DIHYDRONEPETALACTONE

(57) Abstract: Dihydronepetalactone, a minor natural constituent of the essential oil of catmints (*Nepeta* spp.) such as *Nepeta cataria*, has been identified as an effective insect repellent compound. Synthesis of dihydronepetalactone may be achieved by hydrogenation of nepetalactone, the major constituent of catmint essential oils. This compound, which also has fragrance properties, may be used commercially for its insect repellent properties.

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