CLAIMS:

1. A particulate composition comprising anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid, which comprises 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid in an amount of over 98.0% by weight but less than ~~99.9~~99.7% by weight, on a dry solid basis; ~~and~~ has a degree of crystallinity of 90% or higher for anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid, when calculated based on a profile of powder X-ray diffraction analysis of said particulate composition; contains particles with a particle size of less than 150 μm in an amount of 70% by weight or higher to the whole particulate composition, and those with a particle size of at least 53 μm but less than 150 μm in an amount of 40 to 60% by weight to the whole particulate composition.

2. ~~A~~ The particulate composition comprising anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid of claim 1, which ~~comprises 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid in an amount of over 98.0% by weight but less than 99.9% by weight, on a dry solid basis; and~~ has a dynamic vapor sorption level of 0.01% or lower, when kept at 25°C under a relative humidity of 35% by weight for 12 hours after removal of water in said particulate composition under nitrogen gas stream.

3. ~~A~~ The particulate composition comprising anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid of claim 1 or 2, which ~~comprises 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid in an amount of over 98.0% by weight but less than 99.9% by weight, on a dry solid~~

~~basis; has a degree of crystallinity of 90% or higher for anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid, when calculated based on a profile of powder X-ray diffraction analysis of said particulate composition; and contains particles with a particle size of less than 150 μm in an amount of 70% by weight or higher to the whole particulate composition, and those with a particle size of at least 53 μm but less than 150 μm in an amount of 40 to 60% by weight to the whole particulate composition~~ contains L-ascorbic acid and/or D-glucose.

~~4. A particulate composition comprising anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic, which comprises 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid in an amount of over 98.0% by weight but less than 99.9% by weight, on a dry solid basis; has a dynamic vapor sorption level of 0.01% or lower, when kept at 25℃ under a relative humidity of 35% by weight for 12 hours after removal of water in said particulate composition under nitrogen gas stream; and contains particles with a particle size of less than 150 μm in an amount of 70% by weight or higher to the whole particulate composition, and those with a particle size of at least 53 μm but less than 150 μm in an amount of 40 to 60% by weight to the whole particulate composition.~~

~~5. A particulate composition comprising anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid, which comprises 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid in an amount of over 98.0% by weight but less than 99.9% by weight, on a dry solid basis; has a degree of crystallinity of 90% or higher for anhydrous crystalline~~

~~2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid, when calculated based on a profile of powder X-ray diffraction analysis of said particulate composition; contains L-ascorbic acid and/or D-glucose; and has a reducing power of the whole particulate composition being less than one percent by weight.~~

~~6. A particulate composition comprising anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid, which comprises 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid in an amount of over 98.0% by weight but less than 99.9% by weight, on a dry solid basis; has a dynamic vapor sorption level of 0.01% or lower, when kept at 25℃ under a relative humidity of 35% by weight for 12 hours after removal of water in said particulate composition under nitrogen gas stream; contains L-ascorbic acid and/or D-glucose; and has a reducing power of the whole particulate composition being less than one percent by weight.~~

~~7. A particulate composition comprising anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid, which comprises 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid in an amount of over 98.0% by weight but less than 99.9% by weight, on a dry solid basis; has a degree of crystallinity of 90% or higher for anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid, when calculated based on a profile of powder X-ray diffraction analysis of said particulate composition; contains particles with a particle size of less than 150 μm in an amount of 70% by weight or more to the whole particulate composition, and those with a particle size of at least 53 μm but less than 150 μm in an amount of 40 to 60% by weight to the whole particulate composition; contains L-ascorbic acid and/or D-glucose;~~

~~and has a reducing power of the whole particulate composition being less than one percent by weight.~~

~~8. A particulate composition comprising anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid, which comprises 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid in an amount of over 98.0% by weight but less than 99.9% by weight, on a dry solid basis; has a dynamic vapor sorption level of 0.01% or lower, when kept at 25℃ under a relative humidity of 35% by weight for 12 hours after removal of water in said particulate composition under nitrogen gas stream; contains particles with a particle size of less than 150 μm in an amount of 70% by weight or more to the whole particulate composition, and those with a particle size of at least 53 μm but less than 150 μm in an amount of 40 to 60% by weight to the whole particulate composition; contains L-ascorbic acid and/or D-glucose; and has a reducing power of the whole particulate composition being less than one percent by weight.~~

4~~9~~. The particulate composition comprising anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid of ~~any one of~~ claim~~s 1 to 8~~ 3, wherein the content of said L-ascorbic acid is 0.1% by weight or lower, on a dry solid basis.

5~~10~~. The particulate composition comprising anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid of any one of claims 1 to 4~~9~~, which is prepared from a solution comprising 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid obtainable through a step of allowing cyclomaltodextrin glucan otransferase (CGTase) to act on

a solution containing L-ascorbic acid and amylaceous substance.

6~~11~~. A process for producing a particulate composition comprising anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid of any one of claims 1 to 5~~10~~, said process having no recrystallization step and comprising the steps of:

allowing cyclomaltodextrin glucanotransferase and glucoamylase in this order to act on a solution comprising amylaceous substance and L-ascorbic acid to obtain a solution comprising 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid in a production yield of 35% by weight or higher of 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid;

purifying the resulting solution to increase the content of 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid to a level of over 86% by weight, on a dry solid basis;

crystallizing anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid from the resulting purified solution;

collecting the resulting precipitated anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid; and

ageing and drying the collected anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid and optionally pulverizing the resulting crystal.

7~~12~~. The process of claim 6~~11~~, wherein in the step of allowing cyclomaltodextrin glucanotransferase (CGTase) and glucoamylase in this order to act on a solution comprising amylaceous substance and L-ascorbic acid to obtain a solution comprising 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid, said CGTase being allowed to act

on the solution in combination with a starch-debranching enzyme.

8~~13~~. The process of claim 6~~11~~ or 7~~12~~, wherein in the step of purifying the resulting solution comprising 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid to increase the content of 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid to a level of over 86% by weight, on a dry solid basis, it contains a step of removing saccharides by column chromatography using an anion-exchange resin, and simulated-moving-bed column chromatography using a cation-exchange resin as a packing material.

9~~14~~. The process of claim 6~~11~~ or 7~~12~~, wherein in the step of purifying the resulting solution comprising 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid to increase the content of 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid to a level of over 86% by weight, on a dry solid basis, it contains a step of removing saccharides by column chromatography using an anion-exchange resin, and column chromatography using a strong-acid cation-exchange resin or a porous resin.

10~~15~~.A powderous material for food products, which consists of said anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid of any one of claims 1 to 5~~10~~.

11~~6~~. A powderous material for cosmetics, which consists of said anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid of any one of claims 1 to 5~~10~~.

12~~7~~. A powderous material for quasi-drugs, which consists of said anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid of any one of claims 1 to 5~~10~~.

13~~8~~. A powderous material for pharmaceuticals, which consists of said anhydrous crystalline 2-O-α-D-glucosyl-L-ascorbic acid of any one of claims 1 to 5~~10~~.