2013/039,826, which describes including shellac or other naturally-occurring film-forming polymers in sprayable sunscreens. *See, also,* U.S. 2010/0297043, which describes including shellac in compositions adapted to form durable, waterproof, flexible films on the surface of the skin for use as a bandage, artificial skin or protective barrier to protect the skin against contact with dirt and fluids discharged from the wearer's body such as urine, fecal mater and vomit.

[0016] These compositions are alcohol based in the sense that the external phase of the composition is ethanol or other low molecular weight (*e.g.*, C_1-C_6) alcohol. In this context, "alcohol" will be understood to include polyols such as ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerol and the like. In addition, "external phase" will be understood to mean, in the case of a solution, the solvent of the solution in which all the other ingredients are dissolved. Meanwhile, in the case of a suspension, dispersion or emulsion, the "external phase" will be understood to mean the continuous phase of the composition in which all of the ingredients not soluble in this continuous phase are either suspended, dispersed or emulsified. Normally, the majority of these alcohol-based compositions, or at least a substantial majority of the liquid in these alcohol-based compositions, is ethanol or analog.

[0017] The inventive moisturizing compositions differ from these compositions in that the inventive moisturizing compositions are water-based in the sense that the liquid forming the external (continuous) phase of the composition is water. The practical effect of this difference is at least three.

[0018] First, the substantial amount of ethanol or analog in these earlier alcohol-based compositions promotes drying of the skin, which is the exact opposite of the effect sought by a moisturizing composition, *i.e.*, retaining skin moisture. The inventive moisturizing compositions avoid this effect, because they are water-based in the sense that they do not contain substantial amounts of ethanol or analog. This is not to say that the inventive moisturizing compositions must be entirely free of ethanol or analog. Only that the inventive compositions do not contain the large amounts of ethanol found in these earlier compositions. So, for example, the inventive moisturizing compositions may contain ethanol or other low molecular weight alcohol in amounts which are desirably no more than about 11 wt.%, more desirably no more than about 5 wt.%, no more than about 3 wt.% or even no more than about 1 wt.%, based on the weight of the inventive moisturizing compositions as whole (excluding propellant, if any).

Claims:

1. A water-based skin moisturizing composition comprising an oil in water emulsion having an aqueous phase and an oil phase emulsified in the aqueous phase, wherein the oil phase comprises one or more emollients, wherein the composition contains a water-soluble shellac dissolved in the aqueous phase in an amount sufficient to improve the moisturizing properties of the composition, and wherein the composition contains about 40 to 80 wt.% water based on the composition as a whole but excluding any optional propellant that might be present.

2. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 1, wherein the composition contains one or more water-soluble low molecular weight alcohols containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms and 1 to 5 hydroxyl groups.

3. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 2, wherein the concentration of shellac in the composition is about 1 to 20 wt.% based on the composition as a whole but excluding any optional propellant that might be present.

4. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 3, wherein the concentration of shellac in the composition is about 5 to 40 wt.% based on the composition as a whole but excluding all water, low molecular weight alcohol and optional propellant that might be present.

5. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 2, wherein the composition contains no more than about 11 wt.% low molecular weight alcohol based on the composition as a whole but excluding any optional propellant that might be present.

6. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 5, wherein the composition is free of a propellant.

7. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of shellac in the composition is about 1 to 20 wt.% based on the composition as a whole but excluding any optional propellant that might be present.

8. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 7, wherein the concentration of shellac in the composition is about 5 to 40 wt.% based on the composition as a whole but excluding all water, low molecular weight alcohol and optional propellant that might be present.

9. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 8, wherein the composition is free of a propellant.

10. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is in the form of a lotion.

11. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 1, wherein the shellac is dewaxed shellac.

12. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 11, wherein the shellac is dewaxed bleached shellac.

13. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is made by forming an oil in water emulsion in which the oil phase contains one or more emollients and thereafter combining the oil and water emulsion so made with a fortifying mixture comprising shellac dissolved in a mixture of water having an alkaline pH and one or more water-soluble low molecular weight alcohols containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms and 1 to 5 hydroxyl groups.

14. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 13, wherein the composition contains no more than about 11 wt.% low molecular weight alcohol based on the composition as a whole but excluding any optional propellant that might be present, and further wherein the concentration of shellac in the composition is about 1 to 20 wt.% based on the composition as a whole but excluding any optional propellant that might be present.

15. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 14, wherein the concentration of shellac in the composition is about 5 to 40 wt.% based on the composition as a whole but excluding all water, low molecular weight alcohol and optional propellant that might be present.

16. The water-based skin moisturizing composition of claim 15, wherein the composition is free of a propellant.