CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An exfoliating dentifrice composition comprising

(A) a plurality of granules, wherein the granules comprise at least one polymeric binding agent; and

(B) an orally acceptable vehicle,

wherein at least one of the granules and the orally acceptable vehicle further comprises at least one abrasive agent having an average particle diameter of 0.01 mm to 4 mm, and wherein the composition further comprises a hydroxyacid.

2. The dentifrice composition of claim 1 wherein the granules further comprise a thickening agent chosen from hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC), methylcellulose, and corn starch.

3. The dentifrice composition of claim 1, wherein the granules further comprise a plasticizer chosen from propylene glycol, glycerin, and triacetin.

4. The dentifrice composition of claim 1, wherein the at least one abrasive agent comprises silica.

5. The dentifrice composition of claim 1, wherein the hydroxyacid is chosen from lactic acid, glycolic acid, and neutralized salicylic acid.

6. The dentifrice of claim 1, further comprising a proteolytic enzyme.

7. The dentifrice of claim 1, further comprising an agent chosen from a chlorite ion agent, triclosan, 5-chloro-2-(2,4-dichlorophenoxy)-phenol, chlorhexidine, alexidine, hexetidine, sanguinarine, benzalkonium chloride, salicylanilide, domiphen bromide, cetylpyridinium chloride, tetradecylpyridinium chloride, N-tetradecyl-4-

ethylpyridinium chloride, octenidine, delmopinol, octapinol, piperidino derivatives, nisin, zinc ion agents, stannous ion agents, essential oils, furanones, cell wall lytic enzymes, and lysozyme.

8. The dentifrice of claim 1, further comprising an agent chosen from plaque matrix inhibitors, dextranases, mutanases, bacteriocins, histatins, defensins, cecropins, augmentin, amoxicillin, tetracycline, doxycycline, minocycline, metronidazole, neomycin, kanamycin, clindamycin, strontium chloride, potassium nitrate, fluoride ion agents, peppermint oil, chlorophyll, lidocaine, benzocaine, amino acids, and peroxides.

9. A method of exfoliating an oral cavity soft tissue comprising contacting an exfoliating dentifrice composition to an oral cavity soft tissue wherein the dentifrice composition is as defined in claim 1.

10. A system for exfoliation of the soft tissues of the oral cavity comprising:
(A) an oral care implement and
(B) an exfoliating dentifrice composition according to claim 1.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the oral care implement is chosen from a tongue cleaner, a toothbrush, a swab, a sponge, a finger cot, a stick, a dental tray, and a strip.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the oral care implement comprises a reservoir into which the exfoliating dentifrice composition is disposed.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein the oral care implement comprises a material selected from plastic, resin, wood, textile, polymer, sponge, paper, foil, film, metal, and rubber.