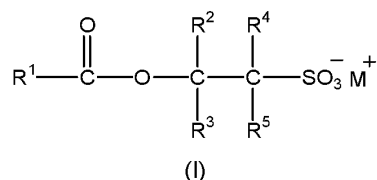


Claims

1. A solid cleansing composition comprising:

(i) at least one acyl alkyl isethionate surfactant of the formula (I):

5



wherein R¹ represents an optionally substituted C₄-C₃₆ hydrocarbyl group;

10 each of R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ independently represents hydrogen or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group and wherein at least one of R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ is not hydrogen; and M⁺ represents a cation;

(ii) a salt of carbonic acid; and

(iii) an organic acid.

15 2. A composition according to claim 1, which is effervescent.

3. A composition according to claim 1 or 2, comprising:

(i) from 5 to 50 wt% of the at least one acyl alkyl isethionate surfactant of the formula (I);

(ii) from 30 to 60 wt% of the salt of carbonic acid; and

20 (iii) from 20 to 40 wt% of the organic acid.

4. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein R¹ represents a C₄-C₃₆ alkyl or C₄-C₃₆ alkenyl group, preferably a C₈-C₁₈ alkyl or C₈-C₁₈ alkenyl group, and mixtures thereof.

25 5. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein R² represents a methyl group and R³, R⁴ and R⁵ each represent hydrogen, or R⁴ represents a methyl group and R², R³ and R⁵ each represent hydrogen.

30 6. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the compound of formula (I) comprises a mixture of isomers including a compound of formula R¹COOCH₂CHR⁴SO₃⁻M⁺ in which R⁴ represents a C₁-C₄ alkyl group and a compound of formula R¹COOCHR²CH₂SO₃⁻M⁺ in which R² represents a C₁-C₄ alkyl group.

35 7. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein M⁺ represents a metal cation or an optionally substituted ammonium cation.

8. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the at least one acyl alkyl isethionate surfactant of the formula (I) is selected from one or more of sodium lauroyl methyl isethionate, sodium cocoyl methyl isethionate, sodium oleoyl methyl isethionate, and isomers thereof.
- 5
9. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the salt of carbonic acid is selected from one or more of sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, potassium carbonate, potassium bicarbonate, ammonium carbonate, and ammonium bicarbonate.
- 10
10. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the organic acid is selected from one or more of a monocarboxylic acid and a polycarboxylic acid, suitably wherein the organic acid is selected from one or more of lactic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, salicylic acid, glycolic acid, ascorbic acid, maleic acid, malic acid, isocitric acid, and citric acid.
- 15
11. A composition according to any preceding claim, comprising at least one additional ingredient.
12. A composition according to claim 11, comprising from 0.001 to 25 wt%, preferably from 1 to 15 wt%, of the at least one additional ingredient.
- 20
13. A composition according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the at least one additional ingredient is selected from one or more of a cationic surfactant, a non-ionic surfactant, an anionic surfactant, and an amphoteric surfactant.
- 25
14. A composition according to any of claims 11 to 13, wherein the at least one additional ingredient is selected from one or more of a vegetable oil, an electrolyte, a fragrance, a pigment/colourant, a filler, a wax, a polyquat, a poloxamer, a polyhydroxy alcohol, a chelant, and an active ingredient.
- 30
15. A composition according to any preceding claim, which is substantially anhydrous.
16. A composition according to any preceding claim, which is in a compacted, crystalline or powdered form.
- 35
17. A cleansing product comprising a composition according to any preceding claim and packaging.
18. A cleansing product according to claim 17, wherein the packaging is water-soluble.

19. A cleansing product according to claim 17 or 18, wherein the packaging comprises a plurality of separate compartments.
20. A method of cleansing skin and/or hair comprising the steps of:
- 5 (a) contacting the composition according to any of claims 1 to 16 with water to form a cleansing foam; and
- (b) contacting the cleansing foam with the skin and/or hair.
21. Use of a composition according to any of claims 1 to 16 for cleansing skin and/or hair.
- 10 22. A method of manufacturing a solid cleansing product, the method comprising the steps of:
- (a) forming an admixture comprising:
- (i) at least one acyl alkyl isethionate surfactant of the formula (I):
- 15
- $$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{R}^1-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{R}^2)(\text{R}^3)-\text{C}(\text{R}^4)(\text{R}^5)-\text{SO}_3^-\text{M}^+ \\
 \text{(I)}
 \end{array}$$
- wherein R¹ represents an optionally substituted C₄-C₃₆ hydrocarbyl group;
- 20 each of R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ independently represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group and wherein at least one of R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ is not hydrogen; and M⁺ represents a cation;
- (ii) a salt of carbonic acid; and
- (iii) an organic acid; and
- 25 (b) enclosing the admixture in packaging.