

ABSTRACT**PRODUCTION OF NATURAL FLAVORS BY LACCASE**

A method of producing nootkatone by laccase catalyzed oxidation of valencene. Valencene and a composition having laccase activity are reacted in the presence of an oxygen source, at a valencene concentration greater than 0.1%, to form valencene hydroperoxide. Optionally, a mediator and/or a solvent at a concentration that maintains laccase activity may also be included. The valencene hydroperoxide is degraded to form nootkatone, and nootkatone is then recovered. The method produces nootkatone in commercially viable yields.

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