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(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU96/00305 (22) International Filing Date: 20 May 1996 (20.05.96) (30) Priority Data: PN 3056 18 May 1995 (18.05.95) AU (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BOC GASES AUSTRALIA LIMITED [AU/AU]; The BOC Gases Building, 799 Pacific Highway, Chatswood, NSW 2057 (AU). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): INGLIS, Andrew, Stirling [AU/AU]; 17 Wybong Hall Road, Wybong, NSW 2333 (AU). LARK, David, James [AU/AU]; P.O. Box 156, Woodburn, NSW 2472 (AU). (74) Agent: SHELSTON WATERS; 60 Margaret Street, Sydney NSW 2000 (AU).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.

(54) Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PASTEURISATION OR STERILISATION OF HERBS AND SPICES**

(57) Abstract

A method for pasteurising or sterilising herbs, spices and other material prone to microbial spoilage comprising the steps of: 1) cooling said herbs, spices or other materials to a temperature less than about 0 °C, 2) rapidly heating said cooled herbs, spices or other materials to a pasteurising or sterilising temperature, and 3) recooling said herbs, spices or other materials to about room temperature, wherein at least steps (2 and 3) are performed in an environment(s) having a pressure of greater than 1 Bar.

