CLAIMS:

1. A method of mitigating or preventing the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene comprising:

providing a feed containing nootkatol and at least one compound that catalyzes the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene; and

either (i) separating via distillation at least a portion of the nootkatol from the at least one compound that catalyzes the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene, wherein a base is added to the feed prior to distillation or (ii) neutralizing at least a portion of the at least one compound that catalyzes the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene

wherein the compound that catalyzes the conversion of nookatol to nookatene comprises at least one acid.

2. The method of mitigating or preventing the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene of claim 1, wherein the feed comprises a blend of volatile terpenes comprising α-nootkatol.

3. The method of mitigating or preventing the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene of claim 1, wherein the compound that catalyzes the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene comprises at least one fatty acid.

4. The method of mitigating or preventing the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene of claim 3, wherein the at least one fatty acid is selected from saturated and unsaturated fatty acids having 2 to 28 carbon atoms.

5. The method of mitigating or preventing the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene of claim 4, wherein the distillation comprises a one-stage distillation.

6. The method of mitigating or preventing the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene of claim 1, wherein the step of distillation comprises carrying out fractional distillation following either (i) or (ii).

7. The method of mitigating or preventing the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene of claim 1, wherein the base is a nitrogen-containing compound.

8. The method of mitigating or preventing the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene of claim 7, wherein the nitrogen-containing compound comprises an amine.

9. The method of mitigating or preventing the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene of claim 8, wherein the amine comprises a tertiary amine.

10. A beverage or foodstuff comprising a beverage or foodstuff base and the terpene blend prepared in accordance with the method of claim 1 .

11. A flavour composition comprising a base material and the terpene blend prepared in accordance with the method of claim 1 .

12. Use of the terpene blend prepared in accordance with the method of claim 1 as a flavour in a beverage or food product.