

Claims Defining the Invention are as Follows:

1. A topical composition comprising luteolin or a derivative thereof, wherein the luteolin is present in an amount of from 0.0001% to 0.02% by weight of the composition.
- 5 2. The topical composition of claim 1 which is formulated as a shampoo, conditioner, cream, ointment or other topical scalp or hair treatment.
3. The topical composition of either one of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the luteolin is obtained from or contained within a plant extract.
4. The topical composition of claim 3 wherein the plant extract is *Citrus reticulata*.
- 10 5. The topical composition of claim 3 wherein the composition comprises *Citrus reticulata* extract.
6. The topical composition of any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the luteolin is in substantially pure form.
7. The topical composition of any one of claims 1 to 5 further comprising one or
15 more ingredients selected from preservatives, emollients, humectants, rheological modifiers, surfactants, foaming agents, natural extracts, essential oils, scalp soothing agents, and scalp healing agents.
8. The topical composition of any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the composition is formulated as a shampoo, conditioner or hair tonic.
- 20 9. A composition comprising luteolin or a derivative thereof, for use in promoting scalp microbiome balancing in a subject.
10. The composition of claim 9, wherein the luteolin is obtained from or contained within a plant extract.
11. The composition of claim 10, wherein the plant extract is a *Citrus reticulata*
25 extract.
12. The composition of claim 9, wherein the luteolin or derivative thereof is in substantially pure form.
13. The composition of any one of claims 9 to 12 wherein the microbiome balancing promotes malodour reduction or treats or prevents dandruff, hair loss, hair
30 thinning, sensitive scalp, irritated scalp, atopic dermatitis or seborrheic dermatitis.

14. The composition of claim 13 wherein the microbiome balancing promotes malodour reduction.
15. The composition of any one of claims 9 to 14 wherein the subject uses a headdress or head covering.
- 5 16. The composition of claim 15 wherein the headdress or head covering is a hijab, wig, burka or keffiyeh.
17. The composition of any one of claims 9 to 16 wherein the subject resides in a hot and/or humid climate.
18. The composition of claim 17 wherein the hot and/or humid climate is a tropical
10 climate.
19. The composition of any one of claims 9 to 18, wherein the composition comprises between 0.0001% to 0.02% by weight of luteolin.
20. The composition of claim 19, wherein the composition comprises between 0.001% to 0.016% by weight of luteolin.
- 15 21. The composition of claim 14 wherein the malodour is caused by odour producing bacteria.
22. The composition of claim 21 wherein the odour producing bacteria are selected from one or more of *S.epidermidis*, *M. lutes* and *C. rigeilli*.
23. The composition of claim 22 wherein the odour producing bacteria is
20 *S.epidermidis*.
24. The composition of any one of claims 9 to 23 wherein the microbiome balancing promotes the growth of *Delftia* species.
25. The composition of claim 24 wherein the *Delftia* is selected from *D. tsuruhatensis*, *Delftia acidovarans*, *Delftia lacustris* and *Delftia litopenaei*.
- 25 26. The composition of claim 25 wherein the *Delftia* is *D. tsuruhatensis*.
27. A method of promoting scalp microbiome balancing in a subject comprising applying to the scalp of the subject luteolin or a derivative thereof.
28. Use of luteolin or a derivative thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for promoting scalp microbiome balancing.