

Claims

1. A food ingredient comprising:
20-40 % by dry weight of milk protein; and
5 35-55% by dry weight of a mixture of lactose, glucose, galactose and galactooligosaccharide, said mixture containing: 0.1-30% by weight of lactose, 8-40% by weight of glucose, 0.1-20% by weight of galactose and 40-90% by weight of galactooligosaccharide.
- 10 2. A food ingredient according to claim 1 further comprising 0.5-30% by dry weight of milk fat and/or mineral derived from milk.
3. A food ingredient according to any one of claims 1 or 2 further comprising 5-20% by dry weight of vegetable oil.
- 15 4. A method for producing a food ingredient, the process comprising:
 - a) providing an aqueous composition comprising 30-80% by weight of non-fat milk solids including lactose,
 - b) adding a beta-galactosidase to the composition
 - 20 c) allowing the beta-galactosidase to react for 10-240 minutes at 50-65°C; and
 - d) heat treating the composition after step c) at a temperature of 70-150°C for 10-150 seconds.
- 25 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the aqueous composition provided in step a) comprises 15-45% of lactose by weight.
6. The method of any one of claims 4 or 5 further comprising spray drying the composition after step d).
- 30 7. The method of any one of claims 4-6 wherein skim milk powder is dissolved in water to provide the composition of step a).
8. The method of any one of claims 4-6 wherein skim milk is concentrated by evaporation and/or filtration to provide the composition of step a).

9. A cocoa and/or malt beverage powder comprising:
10-35% by weight of non-fat milk solids;
20-65% by weight of malt extract solids;
5 0-15% by weight of cocoa solids;
6-15% by weight of vegetable oil and/or milk fat;
0-25% by weight of sucrose;
1-6% by weight of glucose;
0.1-5% by weight of lactose; and
10 3-10% by weight of galactooligosaccharide.
10. The cocoa and/or malt beverage powder of claim 9 comprising 10-30% by dry weight of the food ingredient of any one of claims 1-3.
- 15 11. The cocoa and/or malt beverage powder of any one of claims 9 or 10 comprising:
2-4% by weight of glucose;
0.1-2% by weight of lactose; and
5-10% by weight of galactooligosaccharide.
- 20 12. A liquid cocoa and/or malt beverage product comprising:
3-10% by weight of non-fat milk solids;
1-6% by weight of malt extract solids;
0-5% by weight of cocoa solids;
0.3-5% by weight of vegetable oil and/or milk fat;
25 0-5% by weight of sucrose;
0.4-1.5% by weight of glucose;
0.01-1% by weight of lactose; and
0.5-5% by weight of galactooligosaccharide.
- 30 13. The liquid cocoa and/or malt beverage product of claim 12 comprising 10-30% by dry weight of the food ingredient of any one of claims 1-3.
14. The liquid cocoa and/or malt beverage product of any one of claims 12 or 13 comprising:

0.5-1% by weight of glucose;
0.01-0.5% by weight of lactose; and
1-4% by weight of galactooligosaccharide.