CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

A liquid mineral concentrate composition for use in the improvement of the foam quality of a carbonated water or a carbonated drink, wherein the liquid mineral concentrate composition comprises an activated carbon extract of a plant-derived raw material, and contains the highest concentration of potassium ions among the metal ions present in the liquid mineral concentrate composition.

[Claim 2]

The liquid mineral concentrate composition according to claim 1, wherein the foam quality is selected from the fineness of the foam, the swallowability, and the crispness of the aftertaste.

[Claim 3]

The liquid mineral concentrate composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of chloride ions contained in the mineral-containing composition is 50% or less of the potassium ion concentration.

[Claim 4]

The liquid mineral concentrate composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the amount of calcium ions contained in the liquid mineral concentrate composition is 2.0% or less of the potassium ion concentration.

[Claim 5]

The liquid mineral concentrate composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the amount of magnesium ions contained in the liquid mineral concentrate composition is 1.0% or less of the potassium ion concentration.

[Claim 6]

The liquid mineral concentrate composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the amount of sodium contained in the liquid mineral concentrate composition is 5 to 45% of the potassium ion concentration.

[Claim 7]

The liquid mineral concentrate composition according to claim 1, wherein the

plant-derived raw material is selected from the following: fruit shells of coconut palms, palms, almonds, walnuts, or plums; sawdust, charcoal, resins, and lignin; sawdust ash; bamboos; food residues selected from bagasse, chaff, coffee beans, and molasses; and combinations of these raw materials.

[Claim8]

A method of producing a carbonated water or a carbonated drink having an improved foam quality, the method comprising a step of adding the liquid mineral concentrate composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7 to a carbonated water or a carbonated drink intended to have an improved flavor and/or foam quality.

[Claim 9]

The method according to claim 8, wherein the foam quality is selected from the fineness of the foam, the swallowability, and the crispness of the aftertaste.

[Claim 10]

The method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the liquid mineral concentrate composition is added to the carbonated water or the carbonated drink in such a manner that the concentration of potassium ions added is 50 ppm to 300 ppm.

[Claim 11]

A carbonated water or a carbonated drink having an improved foam quality, comprising the liquid mineral concentrate composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7.

[Claim 12]

The carbonated water or the carbonated drink according to claim 11, wherein the foam quality is selected from the fineness of the foam, the swallowability, and the crispness of the aftertaste.

[Claim 13]

The carbonated water or the carbonated drink according to claim 11 or 12, comprising potassium ions at 50 ppm to 300 ppm in terms of the concentration of potassium ions added.