Claims

[Claim 1] A crystal of an alkali metal N-acetylneuraminate anhydrate, wherein the alkali metal salt is a sodium salt or a potassium salt.

[Claim 2] The crystal according to claim 1, wherein the alkali metal salt is a sodium salt.

[Claim 3] The crystal according to claim 1, wherein the alkali metal salt is a potassium salt.

[Claim 4] The crystal according to claim 2, wherein the crystal has peaks at diffraction angles (2θ) of 11.30±0.20°, 14.60±0.20°, 19.80±0.20°, 21.70±0.20°, and 22.02±0.20° in powder X-ray diffraction.

[Claim 5] The crystal according to claim 4, wherein the crystal further has peaks at diffraction angles (2θ) of 11.12±0.20°, 19.16±0.20°, 24.62±0.20°, 25.70±0.20°, and 37.04±0.20° in powder X-ray diffraction.

[Claim 6] The crystal according to claim 5, wherein the crystal further has peaks at diffraction angles (2θ) of 19.46±0.20°, 24.14±0.20°, 25.56±0.20°, 31.34±0.20°, and 35.86±0.20 in powder X-ray diffraction.

[Claim 7] The crystal according to claim 3, wherein the crystal has peaks at diffraction angles (2θ) of 10.76±0.20°, 14.76±0.20°, 21.24±0.20°, 22.92±0.20°, and 25.64±0.20° in the powder X-ray diffraction.

[Claim 8] The crystal according to claim 7, wherein the crystal further has peaks at diffraction angles (2θ) of 17.86±0.20°, 20.18±0.20°, 23.20±0.20°, 23.94±0.20°, and 28.44±0.20° in the powder X-ray diffraction.

[Claim 9] The crystal according to claim 8, wherein the crystal further has peaks at diffraction angles (2θ) of 17.48±0.20°, 20.90±0.20°, 21.66±0.20°, 35.50±0.20°, and 35.60±0.20° in the powder X-ray diffraction.

[Claim 10] A process for producing a crystal of an alkali metal N-acetylneuraminate anhydrate, comprising adding or adding dropwise a solvent selected from the group consisting of alcohols and ketones to an aqueous N-acetylneuraminic acid solution containing an alkali metal-containing compound and having a pH of 3.0 to 9.0 to precipitate a crystal of an alkali metal N-acetylneuraminate anhydrate, and collecting the crystal of an alkali metal N-acetylneuraminate anhydrate from the aqueous solution, wherein the alkali metal salt is a sodium salt or a potassium salt.

[Claim 11] The production process according to claim 10, wherein the solvent selected from the group consisting of alcohols and ketones is a solvent selected from C1-C6 alcohols, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, and diethyl ketone.