COSMETIC COMPOSITION COMPRISING A TERNARY LIPID ASSOCIATION FOR CONTROLLING DRYNESS OF THE SKIN

The field of the present invention concerns the following novel ternary lipid association: beta–sitosterol, isocetyl stearoyl stearate and glyceryl tri–2–ethylhexanoate; and applications thereof in the fields of cosmetics and dermatology for controlling dryness of the skin.

More particularly, the present invention concerns the cosmetic use of a composition comprising said ternary lipid association, as moisturizing agent for the skin.

Another object of the present invention further concerns a dermatological composition comprising said ternary lipid association for use in the treatment of pathological dry skin.

In one aspect, there is provided a ternary lipid association consisting of β–sitosterol, isocetyl stearoyl stearate and glyceryl tri–2–ethylhexanoate, wherein β–sitosterol is present in a proportion of 0.1% to 5% by weight of said association.

In another aspect, there is provided an emollient composition comprising from 1% to 20% of the association as defined herein, the percentages being expressed by weight relative to the total weight of said composition.

In yet another aspect, there is provided a composition as described herein for use as moisturizer for the skin.

In a further aspect, there is provided a use of a composition as described herein in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment of pathological dry skin.

The skin constitutes an interface between the body and the external environment and as such it not only prevents the penetration of chemical and microbial elements but it must also maintain the body's physiological fluids by limiting water loss. On the latter point, the uppermost layer of the skin, the stratum corneum (referred to as SC throughout the present patent application), makes a substantial contribution to osmotic homeostasis, the role of which is to maintain a water gradient and thus to reduce the drying effects due to the environment. Under physiological conditions, the water content in the superficial part of the skin varies from 70% to 30% while passing from the last living layers (stratum granulosum) to the stratum corneum. It drops further in the very last corneocyte layers to reach 15%.

This ability to maintain water balance comes directly from the structure of the stratum corneum, which consists of flattened keratinized cells - corneocytes - stacked in a lipid matrix. The latter - consisting of ceramides, cholesterol and fatty acids - forms a successive stack of lamellar phases oriented in parallel with the surface of the skin. X–ray diffraction reveals that the lipid chains are organized in two phases: one crystalline, in an orthorhombic arrangement; the other more fluid and less compact, in a hexagonal arrangement. The much more compact crystalline phase predominates in the stratum corneum but the proportion of lipids with hexagonal ordering increases while going toward the surface.

9. Composition according to any one of claims 4 to 8 for use as moisturizer for the skin.

10. Composition according to claim 9 for use as moisturizer for the epidermis, in particular the stratum corneum.

11. Use of a ~~C~~composition according to any one of claims 4 to 8 in the manufacture of a medicament, for ~~use in~~ the treatment of pathological dry skin.

12. The use~~Composition~~ according to claim 11 characterized in that the composition is for improving the symptoms of any form of pathological dry skin