【DESCRIPTION】

【Invention Title】

COSMETIC COMPOSITION CONTAINING HUNZA APRICOT EXTRACT

【Technical Field】

<1> The present invention relates to a cosmetic composition containing a Hunza apricot extract, and more particularly to a cosmetic composition containing, as an active ingredient, a Hunza apricot extract, which smoothly supplies moisture to the skin, reduces loosen keratin, makes the skin texture soft, removes reactive oxygen species from the skin through the potent antioxidant effect thereof, and prevents keratin denaturation on the skin surface and damage to cells to reduce skin moisture loss and skin darkness, thus increasing the skin's moisture content and improving the skin texture.

【Background Art】

<2> The skin, the primary defense barrier of the human body, protects various organs in the body from changes in temperature and humidity and stimuli from the external environment, such as ultraviolet rays and pollutants, and plays an important role in the regulation of biological homeostasis such as thermoregulation. Like other organs of the human body, the skin will age with time and, as a result, show skin-aging effects, including loss of skin elasticity, keratinization, wrinkle formation, skin atrophy and the like. The reasons for such skin-aging effects can be largely classified into two categories: internal factors such as cellular genetic mutations and tissue changes; and external factors such as UV light, heat and humidity (Masamitsu Ichihashi, Fragrance Journal, Vol. 32, No. 5, 24~30). Herein, the skin aging effect caused by UV light is called "photoaging". In photoaging, reactive oxygen species (ROS) or radicals are generated in cells by UV light. The reactive oxygen species promote the synthesis of proteases (MMP-1, MMP-3, MMP-9, etc.) degrading proteins such as collagen or elastin that are elasticity fibers of the dermis layer, by way of the signal transduction system causing an inflammatory reaction, thereby decreasing the elasticity of the dermis layer and causing skin wrinkles (Fisher G.J. et al.,

Nature, Vol. 379, 335-339).

<3> Accordingly, in order to prevent skin aging and keep the skin more healthy and elastic, studies have been made to develop physiologically active substances having the effect of reducing skin wrinkles. For example, in 1995, trans-retinoic acid was approved by FDA as a therapeutic agent for the improvement of photoaged skin. In addition, retinol, which has fewer side effects, has been used in cosmetics since the mid 1990's, and various cosmetics for reducing skin wrinkles have appeared on the market. Since then, female hormone-like substances or antioxidants extracted from various plants have been used in cosmetic products as raw materials for reducing skin wrinkles.

<4> However, most of such cosmetic raw materials have various problems such as weak efficacy or serious side effects. Also, even in the case of cosmetic materials having good efficacy, they act on a limited area of the skin and are similar to each other with respect to their effects on the skin, such as promotion of collagen synthesis, inhibition of collagen degradation, and removal of reactive oxygen species, and thus cannot sufficiently satisfy the demand of customers who want a more new and potent cosmetic product for reducing skin wrinkles. Thus, studies on elucidating new skin-aging mechanisms on the basis of the newest dermatological scientific theory and developing the raw materials and techniques that can block or delay the skin-aging mechanisms are being actively conducted in the cosmetic industry.

<5> The most important function of the epidermis that is the outermost layer of the skin is a protective function of defending the body from various external stimuli (physical and chemical stimuli, including chemical substances, pollutants, dry environments and UV rays) and preventing the excessive loss of water from the body through the skin. This protective function can be maintained only when the stratum corneum (horny layer) consisting of keratinocytes is normally formed. The stratum corneum that is the outermost layer of the epidermis is formed from keratinocytes and consists of differentiated keratinocytes and lipids surrounding the

keratinocyts (J. Invest. Dermatol. 1983; 80: 44-49). Keratinocytes are characteristic cells formed as a result of a process in which basal cells that continuously proliferate in the lowest layer of the epidermis undergo stepwise changes in their morphology and function and move up toward the surface of the skin. After a given period of time, old keratinocytes are removed from the skin and replaced with new keratinocytes, and such a series of repeated changes is called "differentiation of epidermal cells" or "keratinization". In the keratinization process, keratinocytes form the horny layer while producing natural moisturizing factor (NMFs) and intracellular lipids (ceramide, cholesterol, fatty acid, etc.), such that the horny layer has firmness and flexibility so as to function as a skin barrier.

<6> However, this horny layer can readily lose its function due to habitual factors such as excessive face washing or bathing, environmental factors such as dry pollutants, and endogenous diseases such as atopic skin or senile skin. In fact, due to various factors which are further increasing these days, people suffering from dry skin and various symptoms caused thereby are gradually increasing. Accordingly, many studies have been conducted in order to supply water from the outside or prevent the loss of water from the body so as to maintain the skin's moisture content at a suitable level. In fact, various moisturizers having water holding ability have been developed and used mainly in the cosmetic field.

<7> However, as environmental factors harmful to the human body gradually increase and the aged population increases rapidly, the turnover rate of the horny layer becomes slow, and the amount of moisturizing factors and lipids in the horny layer is decreased due to deterioration in the lipid synthesizing ability of keratinocytes or due to the abnormal division, growth and differentiation of cells in the epidermis. For these reasons, people having skins, the horny layer of which does not exhibit a normal skin barrier function, gradually increase.

<8> This abnormal division and differentiation of epidermal cells will cause various skin diseases including dry skin, atopic dermatitis, and

psoriasis. Such diseases can be alleviated only by existing conventional moisturizers having water-holding function, but the fundamental treatment thereof with the conventional moisturizers is difficult.

【Disclosure】

【Technical Problem】

<9> The present inventors have conducted repeated studies to find materials that enhance skin moisturization and improve the skin texture, and as a result, have found that a high content of saccharides present in Hunza apricots attract water to provide excellent moisturization to the skin and that the antioxidant components of Hunza apricots have excellent ability to reduce reactive oxygen species in the skin so as to prevent damage to cells, thereby completing the present invention.

<10> Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide a cosmetic composition containing a Hunza apricot extract which increases the water-holding capacity of the skin, reduces the amount of keratin, makes the skin texture soft, and prevents damage to skin cells, thus improving the skin color.

【Technical Solution】

<11> To achieve the above object, the present invention provides a cosmetic composition containing a Hunza apricot extract as an active ingredient.

【Advantageous Effects】

<12> A cosmetic composition containing a Hunza apricot extract according to the present invention has an excellent moisturizing effect on the skin, increases the skin's moisture content, reduces the amount of keratin in the skin and roughness, and thus makes the skin surface soft. Also, the cosmetic composition of the present invention has a potent antioxidant effect, and thus prevents damages to cells caused by reactive oxygen species in the skin, thereby improving the skin color and increasing skin transparency.

【Description of Drawings】

<13> FIG. 1 shows chromatograms obtained by quantitatively analyzing the contents of rutin in a Hunza apricot extract and a general apricot extract by

HPLC.

<14> FIG. 2 is a graphic diagram showing the degree to which reactive oxygen species (ROS) caused by UV light is inhibited depending on the concentration of the Hunza apricot extract.

<15> FIG. 3 is a photograph showing that reactive oxygen species (ROS) caused by UV light are inhibited by the Hunza apricot extract.

<16> FIG. 4 is a photograph showing that carbonized proteins in kerationcytes, caused by UV light, are inhibited by the Hunza apricot extract.

<17> FIG. 5 is a graphic diagram showing skin's moisture contents with time after the use of a composition containing the Hunza apricot extract.

<18> FIG. 6 is a graphic diagram showing skin moisture contents on the day after the day when a composition containing the Hunza apricot extract was used and when the composition was not used.

<19> FIG. 7 is a photograph showing the amount of keratin in the skin with time after the use of a Hunza apricot extract-containing composition (Example 1).

<20> FIG. 8 is a photograph showing the amount of keratin in the skin with time after the use of a general apricot extract-containing composition (Comparative Example 1).

<21> FIG. 9 is a photograph showing the amount of keratin in the skin with time after the use of a composition containing no apricot extract (Comparative Example 2).

【Best Mode】

<22> The present invention provides a cosmetic composition containing a Hunza apricot extract as an active ingredient.

<23> A Hunza apricot which is contained as an active ingredient in the present invention is produced in the Hunza region of the Himalayas. Dried Hunza apricots obtained by drying apricots produced in the Hunza region have been taken as health foods by the natives, and dried apricot powder and oil obtained from the apricot kernel have been used for a long time for beauty

purposes and were recorded in a list of health foods which need to be taken. Apricots clearly differ in their components and effects depending on their growth environments, even if they are of the same variety. Particularly, apricots which are produced in the Hunza region of the Himalayas have significantly excellent antioxidant effects compared to apricots produced in other regions, because the content of rutin, a flavonoid compound, is about two-fold higher.

<24> The Hunza apricot extract of the present invention can be prepared by an extraction process known in the art. Specifically, for example, finely cut dry dried Hunza apricots are powdered and extracted by adding 95% ethanol in an amount 2.5 times the weight of the Hunza apricot powder. During the extraction process, the Hunza apricot is agitated with an agitator at 300 rpm, and no separate heating was carried out. The extraction time is 2 hours, and the extract is further soaked for one hour. The soaked extract is filtered through filter paper and concentrated under reduced pressure using a rotary vacuum evaporator, thereby obtaining a Hunza apricot extract.

<25> The Hunza apricot extract of the present invention is contained in an amount of 0.1-5 wt% based on the total weight of the composition. If the content of the extract is less than 0.1 wt%, the effects of the active ingredients thereof cannot be obtained, and if the content of the extract is more than 5 wt%, it will inefficient, because the increase in the content will not lead to a great increase in the effect of the extract.

<26> The cosmetic composition according to the present invention smoothly supplies moisture to the skin, reduces the amount of keratin in the skin, and reduces the roughness of the skin surface, thus making the skin texture soft. Also, it improves the skin color through antioxidant activity of preventing damage to cells caused by reactive oxygen species.

<27> The cosmetic composition according to the present invention is not limited to any particular formulation. For example, it can be formulated in the form of skin lotion, astringent lotion, milk lotion, nourishing cream, massage cream, essence, eye cream, eye essence, cleansing foam, cleaning

water or pack.

【Mode for Invention】

<28> Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in further detain with reference to examples. However, the scope of the present invention is not limited only to these examples.

<29>

<30> Preparation Example 1: Preparation of Hunza apricot extract

<31> Dried Hunza apricots were powdered and extracted twice by adding 95% ethanol in an amount 2.5 times the weight of the Hunza apricots. During the extraction process, the Hunza apricots were agitated with an agitator at 300 rpm, and no separate heating was carried out. The extraction time was 2 hours, and the extract was further soaked for 1 hour. The soaked extract was filtered through filter paper (Whatman No.1 filter paper), and then concentrated under reduced pressure using a rotary vacuum evaporator, thereby obtaining a Hunza apricot extract.

<32>

<33> Preparation Example 2: Preparation of general apricot extract

<34> Dried general apricots (produced in Korea) were powdered and extracted twice by adding 95% ethanol in an amount 2.5 times the weight of the Hunza apricots. During the extraction process, the Hunza apricots were agitated with an agitator at 300 rpm, and no separate heating was carried out. The extraction time was 2 hours, and the extract was further soaked for 1 hour. The soaked extract was filtered through filter paper (Whatman No.1 filter paper), and then concentrated under reduced pressure using a rotary vacuum evaporator, thereby obtaining a general apricot extract.

<35>

<36> Test Example 1: Analysis of rutin content

<37> In order to compare the content of the flavonoid compound rutin between the Hunza apricot extract and the extract of general apricots (produced in Korea), HPLC analysis was carried out under the following analysis conditions. The Hunza apricot extract and general apricot extract obtained in

Preparation Examples 1 and 2 were used. The HPLC analysis was carried out using a Waters 2695 separation module equipped with a Waters 2996 photodiode array detector.

<38> <HPLC analysis conditions>

<39> 1. Column: Abbota Kromasil C18 column (5 ㎛, 4.6 x 150㎜)

<40> 2. Flow rate: 0.7 ㎖/min

<41> 3. UV wavelength: 355 ㎚

<42> 4. Standard solution: 100 ppm of rutin (Sigma)

<43> 5. Solvent conditions: 0 min- 80% water (0.2% TFA) + 20% acetonitrile (0.2% TFA); and 20 min- 100% acetonitrile (0.2% TFA)

<44> Chromatograms obtained by HPLC are shown in FIG. 1.

<45> The content of rutin was calculated from the UV absorbance based on 100 ppm of rutin by the UV detector coupled to the system, and the calculation results are shown in Table 1 below.

<46> 【Table 1】

	Hunza apricot (0.1%)	Domestic general apricot (0.1%)
Retention time	4.315 mins	4.276 mins
Rutin content	9.44 ppm	5.30 ppm

<47>

<48> As can be seen in Table 1 above, the content of rutin in the Hunza apricots was about 2-fold higher than that in general apricots (produced in Korea).

<49> Thus, the Hunza apricot extract of the present invention contains the flavonoid compound rutin in an amount larger than that of the general apricot extract, and thus has a superior antioxidant effect. Due to its potent antioxidant effect, the Hunza apricot extract can prevent damage to cells caused by reactive oxygen species in the skin, and improve skin darkness, thus making the skin bright and transparent.

<50>

<51> Test Example 2: Inhibition of increase in reactive oxygen species caused by UV light

<52> In order to examine the inhibitory effect of the Hunza apricot extract on an increase in reactive oxygen species (ROS), the following test was carried out. For comparison, vitamin C known to have an excellent antioxidant effect was used.

<53> <Test method>

<54> 1. HaCaT cells were plated on a 96-well plate at 2 x 10^4 cells and cultured for 24 hours.

<55> 2. On the next day, No-serum media were pretreated with various concentrations of each of the Hunza apricot extract and vitamin C for 24 hours.

<56> 3. DCFH-DA (2',7'-Dichlorofluorescein diacetate) was dissolved in HBSS solution to a concentration of 50 μM, and then the cells of the above section 2 were treated with the solution for 10 minutes.

<57> 4. The cells were washed with PBS, and then irradiated with 60 mJ of UVB.

<58> 5. The medium was replaced with DMEM (Dulbecco Modified Eagle's Medium), and after 1 hour, the production of ROS in the cells was quantified using a fluorometer (excitation: 485 nm/emission: 535 nm), and the cells were imaged with a confocal microscope. The analysis results are shown in FIGS. 2 and 3.

<59> As can be seen in FIG. 2, when the cells treated with UV light were 50 ppm of the Hunza apricot extract, the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) which were increased by UV light was decreased by about 15%. Also, treatment of the cells with 100 ppm of the Hunza apricot extract led to a decrease in ROS of about 25%, and treatment with about 200 ppm of the extract led to a decrease in ROS of about 31%. This suggests that the Hunza apricot extract of the present invention concentration-dependently inhibited the production of reactive oxygen species caused by UV light.

<60> Meanwhile, as can be seen in FIG. 3, when the cells were treated with UV light, reactive oxygen species in the cells were increased, thus increasing the fluorescence of the cells, but when the cells were treated

with the Hunza apricot extract after treatment with UV light, reactive oxygen species in the cells were decreased, thus decreasing the fluorescence of the cells.

<61> Accordingly, it can be seen that the Hunza apricot extract of the present invention can reduce the production of reactive oxygen species in cells, thus preventing damage to cells caused by reactive oxygen species, and improve skin darkness, thus making the skin bright and transparent.

<62>

<63> Test Example 3: Inhibition of increase in carbonized protein in cells

<64> In order to examine the inhibitory effect of the Hunza apricot extract on an increase in carbonized protein in cells, the following test was carried out. The test results are shown in FIG. 4.

<65> 1. Cell culture: Immortalized human keratinocytes, HaCat cells, were added to DMEM (Dulbecco Modified Eagle's Medium) containing 10% fetal bovine serum and 100 units/mℓ of penicillin-streptomycin and cultured at 37 ℃ and 5% CO_2.

<66> 2. Treatment with material: HaCaT cells were dispensed into a 24-well plate at a concentration of 3×10^4 cells and cultured overnight. The cultured cells were treated with 10 mJ of UVB and 100 ppm of the Hunza apricot extract once a day for two days.

<67> 3. Staining and observation of carbonized protein: the culture medium of the cells was removed, and the cells were treated with 3% formaldehyde in PBS and allowed to stand at 4 ℃ for 10 minutes, thus fixing the cells. Then, the cells were washed three times with PBS to completely remove formaldehyde, and incubated with 20 μM of fluorescein-5-thiosemicarbazide at room temperature for one hour, such that carbonized protein in the cells could display fluorescence. Then, the cells were washed three times with PBS and observed with a fluorescence microscope.

<68> As can be seen in FIG. 4, when the cells were treated with UV light, they were turned black, suggesting that the production of carbonized protein

in the cells was increased, but when the cells were treated with the Hunza apricot extract together with UV light, an increase in carbonized protein in the keratinocyte cells, caused by UV light, was inhibited.

<69> Accordingly, it can be seen that the Hunza apricot extract of the present invention can effectively inhibit keratin denaturation caused by UV light so as to prevent an increase in carbonized protein in cells, thus preserving the skin's moisture content and making the skin soft and transparent.

<70>

<71> Example 1 and Comparative Examples 1~2

<72> According to compositions shown in Table 2 below, sleeping packs of Example 1 and Comparative Examples 1 and 2 were prepared (unit: wt%).

<73> 【Table 2】

Ingredients	Ex.1	Comp.Ex.1	Comp.Ex.2
1. Purified Water	to 100	to 100	to 100
2. Butylene Glycol	6.00	6.00	6.00
3. Glycerin	2.10	2.10	2.10
4. Hunza Apricot Extract	2.00	-	-
5. General Apricot Extract	-	2.00	-
6. Trehalose	2.00	2.00	2.00
7. Disodium EDTA	0.02	0.02	0.02
8.Ammonium Acryloyl Dimethyltaurate/ VP Copolymer	0.50	0.50	0.50
9. Carbomer	0.20	0.20	0.20
10. Triethanolamine	0.40	0.40	0.40
11. Chlorphenesin	0.30	0.30	0.30
12. Cyclopentasiloxane	6.30	6.30	6.30
13.Dimethicone/ Vinyl Dimethicone Crosspolymer	0.10	0.10	0.10
14. Dimethiconol	0.20	0.20	0.20
15. polysorbate 20	0.60	0.60	0.60
16.Hydroxypropyl Bispalmitamide MEA	0.005	-	-
17. Fragrance	0.03	0.03	0.03

<74>

<75> <Preparation Method of Example 1 and Comparative Examples 1~2>

<76> 1) The above components 1 to 11 were mixed with each other and

dispersed to form a water part.

<77> 2) The above components 12 to 16 were mixed with each other to form an oil part.

<78> 3) The oil part of step 2) was added to the water part of step 1) and stirred with a homomixer (Tokushu Kika Kogyo Co., Ltd., Japan) to form an emulsion.

<79> 4) Component 17 was added to the mixture of step 3), and the resulting mixture was sufficiently stirred, and then defoamed, thus preparing a semitransparent gel-type sleeping pack.

<80>

<81> Test Example 4: Measurement of skin moisture retention by moisture supply

<82> Each of the cosmetic composition containing the Hunza apricot extract (Example 1), the cosmetic composition containing the general apricot extract (Comparative Example 1), and the cosmetic composition containing no apricot extract (Comparative Example 2) was tested on 10 healthy adult men and 10 healthy adult women. Before the application of each test material, the skin moisture content was measured, and 3, 6 and 9 hours after the application of each test material, the skin moisture content was measured again, thereby measuring the degree to which moisture was retained on the skin.

<83> First, the forearm of each of the test subjects was washed clean and allowed to stand under conditions of constant temperature and constant humidity (23 ℃ and 40% RH) for 30 minutes so as to adapt the skin. After the skin adaptation for 30 minutes, the initial moisture content of the forearm skin area was measured using Corneometer CM825 (C+K Electronic Co., Germany). The Corneometer is a system of determining the skin moisture content by measuring the electrical conductivity of the skin. After the initial measurement, 2 ㎕/㎠ of each cosmetic composition was applied to a 15 ㎠ area portion marked on the forearm. Then, 3, 6, and 9 hours after the application, the skin moisture content of the same area was measured. The measurement results are shown in FIG. 5 (**: statistically significant difference (p =

0.01) between Example and Comparative Examples).

<84> As can be seen in FIG. 5, in the case in which the cosmetic composition containing the Hunza apricot extract (Example 1) was used, the skin moisture content was retained at a higher level than those in the case in which the cosmetic composition containing the general apricot extract (Comparative Example 1) and the cosmetic composition containing no apricot extract (Comparative Example 2) were used. Also, the skin moisture content was retained at a higher level even 9 hours after the application of each composition, suggesting that the cosmetic composition of Example 1 shows excellent skin moisture retention.

<85>

<86> Test Example 5: Measurement of skin moisture content by moisture supply

<87> On the morning of the day following the day when the cosmetic composition containing the Hunza apricot extract (Example 1) was used, the skin moisture content of the face, to which the composition had been applied, and the skin moisture content of the face, to which the composition had not been applied, were comparatively measured. The test was carried out 10 healthy adult men and 10 healthy adult women.

<88> At the first visit, the face was washed and allowed to stand under conditions of constant temperature and constant humidity (23 ℃ and 40% RH) for 30 minutes so as to adapt the skin. After the skin adaptation for 30 minutes, the initial moisture content of the forearm skin area was measured using Corneometer CM825 (C+K Electronic Co., Germany). The area at which the line extending vertically downward from the center of the eye toward the jaw met the horizontal line below the nose was selected as a location to be measured on the facial region, such that the same area could be measured in the next measurement. Then, the cosmetic composition containing the Hunza apricot extract (Example 1) was applied to and absorbed into the whole face before going to bed in the evening. At the second visit on the morning of the next day, the face was washed and allowed to stand under conditions of constant temperature and constant humidity for 30 minutes so as to adapt the

skin, and then the skin moisture content of the same area as measured on the day before the second visit was measured using Corneometer CM825. Also, for comparison, the skin moisture content of the face, to which no cosmetic composition had been applied, was measured and used as a control group. The measurement results are shown in FIG. 6.

<89> As can be seen in FIG. 6, on the morning of the day following the day when the cosmetic composition containing the Hunza apricot extract (Example 1) was used, the skin moisture content of the face was significantly increased compared to that of the face to which the cosmetic composition had not been applied.

<90>

<91> Test Example 6: Measurement of amount of keratin in skin by moisture supply

<92> An increase in skin moisturization leads to a decrease in the amount of keratin. Thus, in order to measure skin moisturizing effects, the amounts of keratin in a skin applied with the sleeping pack containing the Hunza apricot extract (Example 1), a skin applied with the sleeping pack containing the general apricot extract (Comparative Example 1) and a skin applied with the sleeping pack containing no apricot extract (Comparative Example 2) were measured and compared by image analysis. Each of the test materials was tested on 10 healthy adult women.

<93> At the first visit, the forearm area was washed clean and allowed to stand under conditions of constant temperature and constant humidity (23 ℃ and 40% RH) so as to adapt the skin. After the skin adaptation for 30 minutes, loosen keratin on the skin was detached with a keratin collection tape in order to analyze the initial keratin amount of the forearm skin area. Then, 2 ㎕/㎠ of each cosmetic product was applied to a 15 ㎠ area marked on the forearm. Then, 3 hr, 6 hr and 9 hr (12 hr for cosmetic lotion) after the application, keratin was detached from the area applied with the cosmetic product, the amounts of keratin in which the product containing the Hunza apricot extract and the product containing no apricot extract had been used

were determining by measuring the area corresponding to keratin on the basis of the number of pixels through image analysis, thereby confirming moisturizing effects and skin sedative functions. The measurement results are shown in Table 3 and FIGS. 7 to 9.

<94> 【Table 3】

	0 hr	3 hr	6 hr	9 hr
Example 1 (containing Hunza apricot extract)	17.0	4.3	4.4	8.3
Comparative Example 1 (containing general apricot extract)	18.2	7.8	8.6	8.2
Comparative Example 2 (containing no apricot extract)	16.4	7.3	8.4	10.3

<95> Unit: pixel ($1x10^4$)

<96> As can be seen in Table 3 above and FIGS. 7 to 9, in the case in which the cosmetic composition containing the Hunza apricot extract (Example 1) was used, the amount of keratin in the skin was smaller than those in the case in which the cosmetic composition containing the general apricot extract (Comparative Example 1) and the cosmetic composition containing no apricot extract (Comparative Example 2) were used. This suggests that the cosmetic composition containing the Hunza apricot extract according to the present invention has excellent skin moisturizing function and skin sedative function.

<97>

<98> Test Example 7: Comparison of antioxidant activity

<99> In order to compare the antioxidant activity of Hunza apricots with general apricots, a DPPH test was carried out in the following manner.

<100> Each of apricot extracts having concentrations of 0.1% and 1.0% was added to a DPPH (2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) solution containing methanol as a solvent and sufficiently stirred to prepare samples. A blank was prepared by adding distilled water, used in apricot extract, instead of the

apricot extract, and a control solution was prepared by adding the solvent methanol. Each of the samples was sufficiently stirred by vortexing, allowed to stand for 10 minutes, and then measured for optical density (O.D.). Based on the measured optical density, antioxidant activity (DPPH scavenging activity (DSA)) was calculated according to the following equation 1, and thew calculation results are shown in Table 4 below. In this test, three samples were prepared for each group in order to prevent errors, and based on the average of the measured three values, DSA was calculated.

<101> [Equation 1]

<102> DPPH scavenging activity (DSA)(%) = {1-(O.D of sample- O.D of blank)/O.D of control}x100

<103> 【Table 4】

Concentration of Extract	Hunza apricot extract				General apricot (domestic) extract			
		Control	Sample	Blank		Control	Sample	Blank
1.0%	O.D	0.9629	0.3010	0.2077	O.D	0.7975	0.7998	0.0853
	DSA	90.3%			DSA	10.4%		
0.1%	O.D	0.9254	0.602067	0.0546	O.D	0.7799	0.8110	0.0891
	DSA	40.8%			DSA	7.4%		

<104>

<105> As can be seen in Table 4 above, the DPPH scavenging activity of the Hunza apricot extract having a concentration of 0.1% was about 6-times higher than the general apricot extract having the same concentration, and the DPPH scavenging activity of the Hunza apricot extract having a concentration of 1.0% was about 9-times higher than the general apricot extract having the same concentration. This suggests that the Hunza apricot extract of the present invention has excellent antioxidant activity compared to the general apricot extract, and thus effectively reduces reactive oxygen species in the skin and prevents damage to cells.

【CLAIMS】

【Claim 1】

A cosmetic composition containing a Hunza apricot extract as an active ingredient.

【Claim 2】

The cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein the Hunza apricot extract is contained in an amount of 0.1-5 wt% based on the total weight of the composition.

【Claim 3】

The cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein the cosmetic composition is used for skin moisturization.

【Claim 4】

The cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein the cosmetic composition reduces the amount of keratin in the skin.

【Claim 5】

The cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein the cosmetic composition reduces the roughness of the skin surface.

【Claim 6】

The cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein the cosmetic composition improves the skin color.