CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A process for obtaining a succinate product from a fermentation broth comprising:

   filtering the fermentation broth to obtain a succinate-containing filtrate;

   ensuring that the succinate-containing filtrate has a pH of about 3.0 or less;

   running said succinate-containing filtrate through a chromatographic column having a non-functionalized resin at an operational temperature in a range of about 20°C to about 100°C,

   wherein said operational temperature is selected to produce a column eluent that is selectively either enriched in free succinic acid relative to a salt of succinic acid, or enriched in a salt of succinic acid relative to free succinic acid.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein said operational temperature is either a) greater than 50°C to produce said eluent enriched in free succinic acid, or b) less than 50°C to produce said eluent enriched in said salt of succinic acid.

3. The process according to claim 2, wherein said operational temperature for producing said eluent enriched in free succinic acid is between about 50°C to about 90°C.

4. The process according to claim 2, wherein said operational temperature for producing said eluent enriched in said salt of succinic acid is between about 20°C to about 45°C.

5. The process according to claim 1, further comprising crystallizing succinic acid from said eluent enriched in free succinic acid.

6. The process according to claim 5, wherein said crystallized succinic acid exhibits ~~≥~~ ≥ 90% purity after a single crystallization.

7. The process according to claim 1, wherein said eluent enriched in free succinic acid manifests as a distinct chromatographic peak within 3 bed volumes of elution of said column.