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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE EXTRACTION OF ESTERS OF XANTHOPHYLL AND OF CAROTENOIDS

(57) Abstract: A process for the extraction of the trans-xanthophyll esters concentrate, which process comprises (a) contacting plant material containing the xanthophyll esters with a solvent selected from an alcohol or a nitrile for a time sufficient to extract the non-xanthophyll compounds from the plant material; (b) separating the alcohol or nitrile solvent and the non-xanthophyll compounds dissolved therein from the remaining plant material; (c) contacting the remaining plant material with a hydrocarbon solvent for a sufficient time to extract the xanthophyll ester from the plant material. The process results in high yield of purified esters product.



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