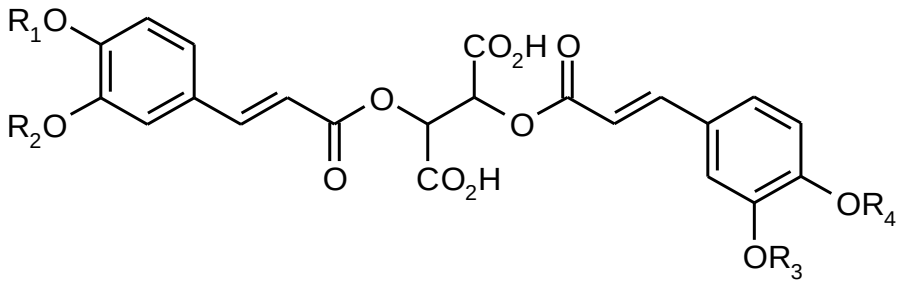
Claims

1. ~~A composition for use as an oral food supplement~~A cosmetic method for treating and/or reducing the risk of occurrence of skin pigment disorders and/or skin imperfections~~, the composition~~ comprising administering an oral food supplement comprising an ingredient containing chicoric acid and/or derivatives thereof, and a lactic acid bacterium and/or an enzyme capable of hydrolyzing chicoric acid and/or derivatives thereof to generate tartaric and/or caffeic acid to an individual in need of same, wherein derivatives of chicoric acid are of the following formula:

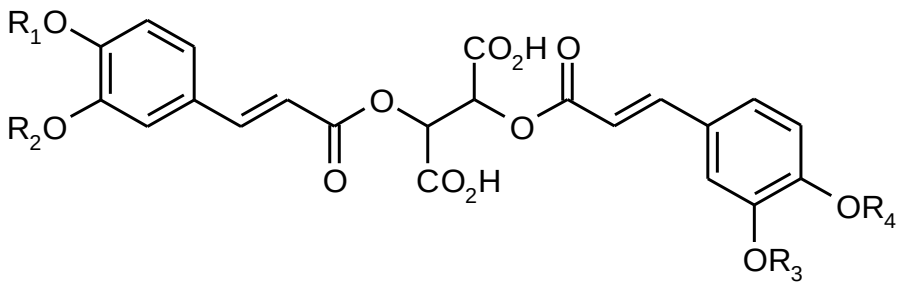


R_1, R_2, R_3 and/or R_4 being identical or different from one another, and selected from the group consisting of H; C_1-C_3-alkyl; aryl; amino acids; and mono-, di- or oligosaccharides.

2. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the skin disorders are that observed ~~from the~~in a group consisting of melasma, freckles, ~~vitiligo, piebaldism, phenylketonuria,~~ and age spots.

3. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 1 for improving skin tone and/or skin complexion.

4. ~~A composition for use as an oral food supplement~~A cosmetic method for lightening and/ or whitening skin tone~~, the composition~~ comprising administering an oral food supplement comprising an ingredient containing chicoric acid and/or derivatives thereof, and a lactic acid bacterium and/or an enzyme capable of hydrolyzing chicoric acid and~~.~~/or derivatives thereof to generate tartaric and/or caffeic acid to an individual in need of same, wherein derivatives of chicoric acid are of the following formula:



R_1, R_2, R_3 and/or R_4 being identical or different from one another, and selected from the group consisting of H; C_1-C_3-alkyl; aryl; C_1-C_3-acyl; amino acids; and mono-, di- or oligosaccharides.

5. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the composition improves hydration of the skin and/or skin barrier function.

6. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the chicoric acid and/or derivatives thereof containing ingredient is a natural food.

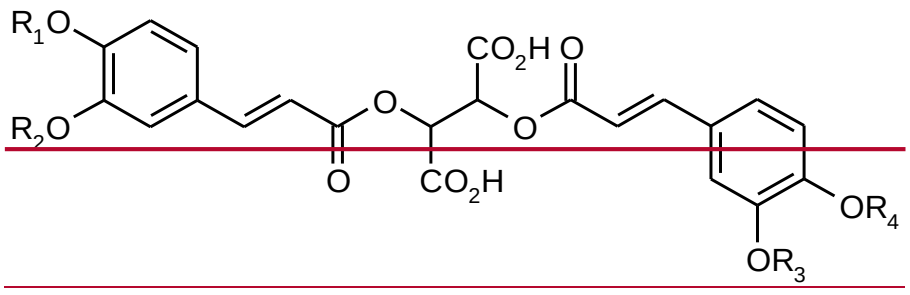
7. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the composition comprises an enzyme capable of hydrolyzing chicoric acid to generate tartaric and/or caffeic acid.

8. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacterium capable of hydrolyzing chicoric acid to generate tartaric and/or caffeic acid is a probiotic lactic acid bacterium having an esterase activity.

9. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *L. johnsonii*, *B. longum*, and *B. lactis.*

10. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the composition comprises an effective amount of at least one active agent for improving skin hydration or skin ageing.

~~11. A composition for use for treating and/or reducing the risk of occurrence of skin pigment disorders and/ or skin imperfections, the composition comprising an effective amount of at least an ingredient containing chicoric acid and/or derivatives thereof, and a lactic acid bacterium and/or an enzyme capable of hydrolyzing chicoric acid and/or derivatives thereof to generate tartaric and/or caffeic acid in a food supplement, wherein derivatives of chicoric acid are of the following formula:~~



~~R_1, R_2, R_3 and/or R_4 being identical or different from one another, and selected from the group consisting of H; C_1-C_3-alkyl; aryl; C_1-C_3-acyl; amino acids; mono-, di- or oligosaccharides.~~

~~12~~11. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the chicoric acid and/or derivatives thereof containing ingredient is a natural food.

~~13~~12. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the composition comprises an enzyme capable of hydrolyzing chicoric acid to generate tartaric and/or caffeic acid.

~~14~~13. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *L. johnsonii*, *B. longum*, and *B. lactis.*

~~15. A composition in accordance with claim 11, wherein the chicoric acid and/or derivatives thereof containing ingredient is a natural food.~~

~~16. A composition in accordance with claim 11, wherein the composition comprises an enzyme capable of hydrolyzing chicoric acid to generate tartaric and/or caffeic acid.~~

~~17. A composition in accordance with claim 11, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *L. johnsonii*, *B. longum*, and *B. lactis.*~~

~~18~~14. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii* (CNCM I-1225), *B. longum* BB 536, *B. lactis* (CNCM I-3446) and *B. lactis* BB12.

~~19~~15. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii* (CNCM I-1225), *B. longum* BB 536, *B. lactis* (CNCM I-3446) and *B. lactis* BB12.

~~20. A composition in accordance with claim 11, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii* (CNCM I-1225), *B. longum* BB 536, *B. lactis* (CNCM I-3446) and *B. lactis* BB12.~~

~~21~~16. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said food supplement further contains chicory in an amount of 0.1 g/l to 10 g/l.

~~22~~17. ~~A composition~~Method in accordance with claim 4, wherein said food supplement further contains chicory in an amount of 0.1 g/l to 10 g/l.

~~23. A composition in accordance with claim 11, wherein said food supplement further contains chicory in an amount of 0.1 g/l to 10 g/l.~~

18. Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said food supplement further contains chicory for administration in a daily dose of 0.01 g to 100 g.

19. Method in accordance with claim 4, wherein said food supplement further contains chicory for administration in a daily dose of 0.01 g to 100 g.

20. Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the oral administration of said food supplement is repeated 2 to 3 times a day, for at least 4 weeks.

21. Method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the oral administration of said food supplement is repeated 2 to 3 times a day, for at least 4 weeks.