CLAIMS

1. A method for producing a rebaudioside D-containing aqueous composition comprising rebaudioside D at a concentration of 500 ppm by weight or more,

the method comprising: a step of stirring for dispersing a steviol glycoside component comprising rebaudioside D and water in a temperature range of 40°C to 100°C under high shear at a tip speed (peripheral speed) of a rotor of 15 m/s or more, wherein the steviol glycoside component comprises more than 50% by weight of rebaudioside D based on a total weight of the steviol glycoside component.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein in the step of stirring for dispersing, the steviol glycoside component and water are stirred in the presence of a defoaming agent.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the defoaming agent is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, L-ascorbic acid, DL-malic acid, hydrochloric acid, a citrate, an L-ascorbate, a DL-malate, potassium chloride, sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, calcium sulfate, a phosphate, a fumarate, a gluconate, a succinate, a lactate, and a mixture of two or more thereof.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the defoaming agent is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, L-ascorbic acid, DL-malic acid, hydrochloric acid, a citrate, an L-ascorbate, a DL-malate, potassium chloride, sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, and a mixture of two or more thereof.

5. The method according to any of claims 2 to 4, wherein a ratio of a weight of the defoaming agent (W_{def}) to a weight of rebaudioside D (W_{reb}) (W_{def}/W_{reb}) is 0.01 or more.

6. The method according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein a concentration of rebaudioside D in the rebaudioside D-containing aqueous composition is 1000 to 5000 ppm by weight.

7. The method according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein when the rebaudioside D-containing aqueous composition is stored in an environment of atmospheric pressure and a temperature of 10°C after production, a ratio of a concentration of rebaudioside D in the rebaudioside D-containing aqueous composition on day 38 after the production

(C_1) to a concentration of rebaudioside D in the rebaudioside D-containing aqueous composition on day 0 of the production (C_0) (C_1/C_0) is 0.75 or more.

8. The method according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the rebaudioside D-containing aqueous composition is a concentrated liquid for a drink.

9. A sweetening composition comprising rebaudioside D at a concentration of 500 ppm by weight or more, water, a steviol glycoside component and a defoaming agent, wherein the defoaming agent is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, L-ascorbic acid, DL-malic acid, hydrochloric acid, a citrate, an L-ascorbate, a DL-malate, potassium chloride, sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, and a mixture of two or more thereof,

wherein the steviol glycoside component comprises more than 50% by weight of rebaudioside D based on a total weight of the steviol glycoside component, and

wherein a ratio of a weight of the defoaming agent (W_{def}) to a weight of rebaudioside D (W_{reb}) (W_{def}/W_{reb}) is 0.1 or more.

10. The sweetening composition according to claim 9, wherein a ratio of a weight of the defoaming agent (W_{def}) to a weight of rebaudioside D (W_{reb}) (W_{def}/W_{reb}) is 1 or more.

11. The sweetening composition according to claim 9 or 10, which does not comprise one or more of stevioside, polyol and a hydrophilic polymer.

12. The sweetening composition according to any of claims 9 to 11, wherein when the sweetening composition is stored in an environment of atmospheric pressure and a temperature of 10°C after production, a ratio of a concentration of rebaudioside D in the sweetening composition on day 38 after the production (C_1) to a concentration of rebaudioside D in the sweetening composition on day 0 of the production (C_0) (C_1/C_0) is 0.75 or more.

13. The sweetening composition according to claims 9 to 12, which is a concentrated liquid for a drink.

14. A drink comprising the sweetening composition according to claim 13 and water for dilution.

15. The drink according to claim 14, further comprising one or more selected from the group consisting of rebaudioside A, rebaudioside B, rebaudioside E, rebaudioside F, rebaudioside M, rebaudioside N, stevia extract, a steviol glycoside having a structure to which rhamnose is bonded, stevioside, mogroside V, sucrose, high fructose corn syrup, erythritol, corn syrup, aspartame, sucralose, acesulfame potassium, saccharin and xylitol.

16. A method for producing a rebaudioside D-containing aqueous composition comprising rebaudioside D at a concentration of 500 ppm by weight or more,

the method comprising a step of stirring for dispersing a steviol glycoside component comprising rebaudioside D and water in the presence of a defoaming agent,

wherein the defoaming agent is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, L-ascorbic acid, DL-malic acid, hydrochloric acid, a citrate, an L-ascorbate, a DL-malate, potassium chloride, sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, and a mixture of two or more thereof.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein a ratio of a weight of the defoaming agent (W_{def}) to a weight of rebaudioside D (W_{reb}) (W_{def}/W_{reb}) is 0.01 or more.

18. The method according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the rebaudioside D-containing aqueous composition comprises more than 50% by weight of rebaudioside D based on a total weight of the steviol glycoside component.