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(54) **Title:** DECELLULARIZED MATRIX FROM SEAWEED OR LICHEN, SCAFFOLDS MADE THEREFROM AND METHODS

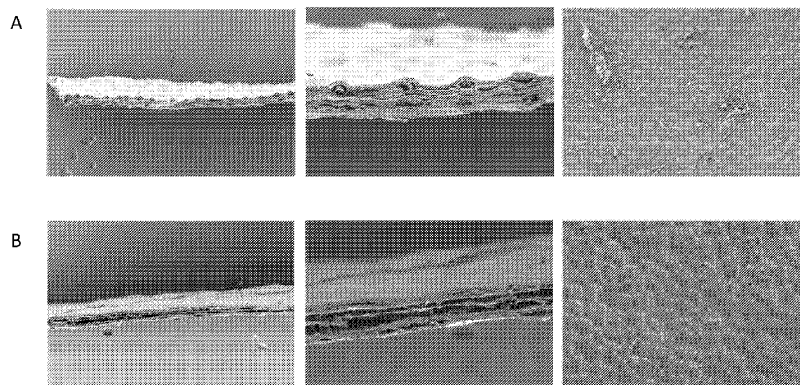


Figure 9

(57) **Abstract:** Biocompatible scaffold material from seaweed or lichen is provided and a process for preparing such materials. The novel acellular material can advantageously be used as a scaffold matrix for biological applications, such as but not limited to implants, internal or external tissue engineering, wound dressing, and drug delivery implants. The process comprises steps of arranging a portion of seaweed or lichen in water or aqueous solution; emitting electromagnetic radiation comprising at least one wavelength on the organism over a period of time sufficient for decellularization of the seaweed or lichen to form a decellularized matrix. The invention provides novel extracellular matrix material from seaweed or lichen, which can be in the form of a scaffold or dressing, from said material.



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