

What is claimed is:

1. A storage stable topical composition comprising:
 - a. 5% to 28% by weight ascorbic acid;
 - b. 5% to 20% by weight of a urea agent;
 - c. 0.1% to 5% by weight of a cinnamic acid or derivative thereof; and
 - d. less than 10% by weight in total of one or more optional additional components;
 - e. dissolved in a non-aqueous skin-compatible solvent comprising polyol, C₍₂₋₆₎ alkanediol, glycol ether, dimethyl ether, or a combination thereof; wherein the ascorbic acid is dissolved at a concentration (AA) that is above its maximum concentration in the solvent alone (X), and the urea is dissolved at a concentration that is at least (AA-X)*1.25.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition demonstrates less than 10 mol % degradation of the ascorbic acid after storage for 6 weeks at 40° C ± 2° C in a sealed container.
3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition demonstrates less than 5 mol % degradation of the ascorbic acid after storage for 8 months at 40° C ± 2° C in a multi-use container.
4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition demonstrates less than 10 mol % degradation of the ascorbic acid after storage for 16 months at 40° C ± 2° C in a multi-use container.
5. The composition of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the urea agent is urea.
6. The composition of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the urea agent is hydroxyethyl urea.
7. The composition of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the urea agent comprises a mixture of urea and hydroxyethyl urea.

8. The composition of any one of claims 1-7, wherein the solvent is selected from 1,3 propanediol, 1,2 propanediol, 1,3 butanediol, 1,5 pentanediol, 1,2 hexanediol, 1,6 hexanediol, 1,2 hexanediol, glycerol, diglycerol, ethoxydiglycol, dimethyl isosorbide, and a combination thereof.
9. The composition of claim 8, wherein the solvent is 1,3 propanediol.
10. The composition of claim 8, wherein the solvent is a mixture of 1,3 propanediol and 1,2 hexanediol.
11. The composition of any one of claims 1-10, wherein the one or more optional additional components are selected from tocopherols, tocotrienols (e.g., alpha, beta, delta and gamma tocopherols or alpha, beta, delta and gamma tocotrienols), azelaic acid, hydroxy acids (e.g., salicylic acid), panthenol, pinus pinaster bark extract, emulsifying agent, hyaluronic acid complex, madecassoside, acetyl zingerone, bakuchiol, and bis-ethylhexylhydroxydimethoxybenzylmalonate.
12. The composition of any one of claims 1-11, wherein the composition comprises about 5% by weight of ascorbic acid.
13. The composition of any one of claims 1-11, wherein the composition comprises about 10% to about 20% by weight of ascorbic acid.
14. The composition of claim 13, wherein the composition comprises about 10% by weight of ascorbic acid.
15. The composition of claim 13, wherein the composition comprises about 15% by weight of ascorbic acid.
16. The composition of claim 13, wherein the composition comprises about 20% by weight of ascorbic acid.

17. The composition of any one of claims 1-11, wherein the composition comprises about 25% by weight of ascorbic acid.
18. The composition of any one of claims 13-16, wherein the ratio of ascorbic acid to urea agent is 1.8 to 2.2.
19. The composition of claim 18, wherein the ratio of ascorbic acid to urea agent is 2 to 1.
20. The composition of any one of claims 18-19, wherein the optional additional component comprises acetyl zingerone.
21. The composition of claim 20, wherein the composition comprises 2% or less by weight of the acetyl zingerone.
22. The composition of claim 21, wherein the composition comprises about 0.5% by weight of the acetyl zingerone.
23. The composition of any one of claims 1-19, wherein the cinnamic acid derivative is selected from ferulic acid, caffeic acid, coumaric acid, sinapinic acid, and derivatives thereof.
24. The composition of any one of claims 15 and 18-23, wherein the composition comprises:
 - about 15% by weight ascorbic acid;
 - about 8% by weight urea agent;
 - about 1% by weight ferulic acid; and
 - a solvent that comprises 1,3-propanediol.
25. The composition of claim 23, wherein the composition comprises 0.1 to 2% by weight of the ferulic acid.

26. The composition of claim 23, wherein the composition comprises 1% or less by weight of the ferulic acid.
27. The composition of claim 26, wherein the composition comprises about 0.5% by weight of the ferulic acid.
28. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises 60% by weight of the solvent comprising propanediol.
29. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises 10% by weight urea.
30. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises 0.5% by weight of diglycerin and pinus pinaster bark extract.
31. The composition of any one of claims 16 and 23, wherein the composition comprises:
20% by weight ascorbic acid;
10% by weight urea agent
0.5% by weight ferulic acid;
60% by weight propanediol; and
0.5% by weight diglycerin and pinus pinaster bark extract.
32. The composition of any one of claims 16 and 23, wherein the composition comprises:
20% by weight ascorbic acid;
10% by weight urea agent
0.5% by weight ferulic acid; and
a solvent that is 1,3-propanediol.
33. The composition of any one of claims 15 and 23, wherein the composition comprises:
15% by weight ascorbic acid;
8% by weight urea agent;
0.5% by weight ferulic acid; and

a solvent that is 1,3-propanediol.

34. The composition of any one of claims 13-14, wherein the ratio of ascorbic acid to urea agent is between 3 and 3.5.
35. The composition of any one of claims 1-29, wherein the optional additional component comprises azelaic acid.
36. The composition of claim 31, wherein the composition comprises 3% to 10% by weight of the azelaic acid.
37. The composition of claim 31, wherein the composition comprises about 7.5% by weight of the azelaic acid.
38. The composition of any one of claims 14, 23, and 31, wherein the composition comprises:
 - about 10% by weight ascorbic acid;
 - about 3% by weight urea agent;
 - about 0.5% to 2% by weight ferulic acid; and
 - a solvent that is 1,3-propanediol.
39. The composition of any one of claims 1-38, wherein the one or more optional additional components comprises pinus pinaster bark extract.
40. The composition of claim 39, wherein the composition comprises 2% or less by weight of the pinus pinaster bark extract.
41. The composition of claim 39, wherein the composition comprises about 0.5% by weight of the pinus pinaster bark extract.

42. The composition of any one of claims 1-41, wherein the one or more optional additional components comprises madecassoside (e.g., madecassoside asiaticoside).
43. The composition of any one of claims 1-13, wherein the ratio of ascorbic acid to urea agent is a ratio from 1.0 to 1.3.
44. The composition of any one of claims 1-13, wherein the ratio of ascorbic acid to urea agent is 1.25 to 1.
45. The composition of any one of claims 1-44, wherein the optional additional component comprises a hydroxy acid.
46. The composition of claim 45, wherein the hydroxy acid is selected from glycolic acid, lactic acid, mandelic acid, salicylic acid, capryloyl salicylic acid, salicyloyl phytosphingosine, gluconolactone, lactobionic acid, maltobionic acid, and combinations thereof.
47. The composition of claim 45, wherein the hydroxy acid is salicylic acid.
48. The composition of claim 45, wherein the composition comprises 3% or less by weight of the hydroxy acid.
49. The composition of claim 45, wherein the composition comprises about 2% by weight of the hydroxy acid.
50. The composition of claim 17, wherein the composition comprises:
about 25% by weight ascorbic acid;
about 20% by weight urea agent;
about 0.5% to 2% by weight ferulic acid; and
a solvent that is 1,3-propanediol.

51. The composition of claim 1, wherein the ratio of ascorbic acid to urea agent is 1 to 1.
52. The composition of any one of claims 1-23, wherein the optional additional component comprises panthenol.
53. The composition of claim 52, wherein the composition comprises 10% or less by weight of the panthenol.
54. The composition of claim 52, wherein the composition comprises about 5% by weight of the panthenol.
55. The composition of any one of claims 12 and 51, wherein the composition comprises:
about 5% by weight ascorbic acid;
about 5% by weight urea agent; and
about 0.1 to 2% by weight of ferulic acid;
a solvent that is 1,3-propanediol.
56. The composition of any one of claims 51-54, wherein the one or more optional additional components comprises madecassoside (e.g., madecassoside asiaticoside).
57. The composition of claim 42, wherein the composition comprises about 1% or less by weight of the madecassoside.
58. An emulsion composition, comprising:
the composition according to any one of claims 1-57;
an oil component; and
an optional emulsifying agent.
59. The emulsion composition of claim 58, wherein the oil component is silicone-based.

60. The emulsion composition of claim 58 or 59, wherein the emulsion composition comprises an emulsifying agent.
61. The emulsion composition of any one of claims 58-59, wherein the emulsifying agent is selected from polysorbates, laureth-4, potassium cetyl sulfate and silicone and silicone-elastomer-based emulsifiers and emulsifying blends.
62. A ready-to-use topical preparation of ascorbic acid in a multi-use container which is pre-filled with a storage stable topical composition according to any one of claims 1-57, wherein the multi-use container comprises means for dispensing a single dose of the storage stable topical composition.
63. The preparation of claim 62, wherein the storage stable topical composition demonstrates less than 10 mol % degradation of the ascorbic acid after storage for 6 weeks at $40^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ in the container.
64. The preparation of claim 62, wherein the storage stable topical composition demonstrates less than 10 mol % degradation of the ascorbic acid after storage for 6 months at $25^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ in the container.
65. The preparation of any one of claims 58-60, wherein the storage stable topical composition is sealed in the container.
66. The preparation of any one of claims 58-61, wherein the container is placed in packaging.
67. A process for stabilizing ascorbic acid for storage, the process comprising:
combining:
i. 1% to 20% by weight urea agent selected from urea, hydroxyethyl urea, and combination thereof;

- ii. 10% to 94% by weight of a non-aqueous skin-compatible solvent comprising C₍₃₋₆₎polyol, ethoxydiglycol, dimethyl ether, or a combination thereof;
 - iii. 0.1 to 5% or less of a cinnamic acid or derivatives thereof; and
 - iv. optionally one or more additional agents; with
 - v. 5% to 28% by weight ascorbic acid;
- thereby dissolving the ascorbic acid to produce storage stable, nonaqueous, single-phase clear liquid composition of ascorbic acid.
68. The process of claim 67, wherein the one or more additional agents are combined and comprise:
- 0.5% to 2% pinus pinaster bark extract.
69. The process of claim 67, wherein the one or more additional agents are combined and comprise:
- 3% to 10% by weight azelaic acid.
70. The process of claim 67, further comprising:
- combining 0.5% to 2% by weight of acetyl zingerone and 1.5% to 5% by weight of an emulsifying agent to produce a second liquid composition; and
- combining the second liquid composition with the liquid composition of ascorbic acid to produce an emulsion.
71. The process of claim 67, further comprising:
- combining 0.5% to 2% by weight of a lipid component and 1.5% to 5% by weight of an emulsifying agent to produce a second liquid composition; and
- combining the second liquid composition with the liquid composition of ascorbic acid to produce an emulsion.
72. The process of claim 71, wherein the lipid component is selected from cholesterol, ceramides, free fatty acids, and combinations thereof.

73. The process of claim 67, wherein the one or more additional agents are combined and comprise:
0.5% to 2% by weight hydroxy acid.
74. The process of claim 73, wherein the hydroxy acid is selected from glycolic acid, lactic acid, mandelic acid, salicylic acid, capryloyl salicylic acid, salicyloyl phytosphingosine, gluconolactone, lactobionic acid, maltobionic acid, and combinations thereof.
75. A product produced by the process according to any one of claims 67-74.
76. The product of claim 75, wherein the product is used for wound healing
77. The product of claim 75, wherein the product is a serum.