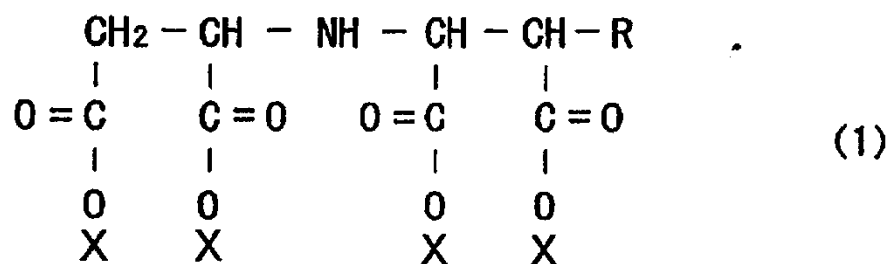


ABSTRACT

METHOD OF STABILIZING HEME PROTEIN AND STORAGE SOLUTION THEREFOR

There is provided a novel method of stabilizing a heme protein, which is effective against denaturation and degradation of a heme protein such as hemoglobin.

- 5 A method of stabilizing a heme protein comprises allowing an iminocarboxylic acid or a salt thereof to coexist in a sample containing the heme protein. In the method, the iminocarboxylic acid or a salt thereof is preferably a compound of Formula (1):



- 10 in which R is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group, and X is a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, or an ammonium group), or a mixture thereof. A storage solution for a heme protein comprises the iminocarboxylic acid or a salt thereof.