WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Use of a controlled release formulation comprising ~~A method of treating constipation-predominant irritable bowel syndrome (c-IBS), comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment,~~ an amount of an extract or latex isolated from Croton spp. or Calophyllum spp. in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of constipation-predominant irritable bowel syndrome (c-IBS), wherein said amount is effective to treat c-IBS.

2. Use of a controlled release formulation comprising ~~A method of treating constipation-predominant irritable bowel syndrome (c-IBS), comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment,~~ an amount of a polymeric proanthocyanidin composition isolated from Croton spp. or Calophyllum spp. in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of constipation-predominant irritable bowel syndrome (c-IBS), wherein said amount is effective to treat c-IBS.

3. The use ~~method~~ of claim 1 or 2, in which said amount is bioequivalent to an orally administered dose of about 250 mg per day to about 4000 mg per day of crofelemer.

4. The use ~~method~~ of claim 2, in which the polymeric proanthocyanidin ~~polymer~~ composition comprises at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of catechin, epicatechin, gallocatechin and epigallocatechin.

5. The use ~~method~~ of claim 2 wherein the polymeric proanthocyanidin composition is crofelemer.

6. The use ~~method~~ of claim 5, in which crofelemer is orally administered in an amount of between about 250 mg per day and about 4000 mg per day.

7. The use ~~method~~ of claim 1 or 2, in which the treatment comprises reducing one or more symptoms of c-IBS.

8. The use ~~method~~ of claim 7, in which the symptom is pain or abdominal discomfort.

9. The use ~~method~~ of claim 8, in which pain or discomfort is reduced by at least 10%.

10. The use ~~method~~ of claim 7, in which the symptom is constipation or less than normal stool frequency.

11. The use ~~method~~ of claim 10, in which stool frequency is increased by at least one additional bowel movement per week.

12. Use of a controlled release formulation comprising ~~A method of treating alternating constipation-predominant/diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome (a-IBS), comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment,~~ an amount of an extract or latex isolated from Croton spp. or Calophyllum spp. in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of alternating constipation-predominant/diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome (a-IBS), wherein said amount is effective to treat a-IBS.

13. Use of a controlled release formulation comprising ~~A method of treating alternating constipation-predominant/diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome (a-IBS), comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment,~~ an amount of a polymeric proanthocyanidin composition isolated from Croton spp. or Calophyllum spp. in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of alternating constipation-predominant/diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome (a-IBS), wherein said amount is effective to treat a-IBS.

14. The use ~~method~~ of claim 12 or 13, in which said amount is bioequivalent to an orally administered dose of about 50 mg per day to about 4000 mg per day of crofelemer.

15. The use ~~method~~ of claim 14, in which said amount bioequivalent to an orally administered dose of about 500 mg per day to about 1500 mg per day of crofelemer.

16. The use ~~method~~ of claim 13, in which the polymeric proanthocyanidin composition is crofelemer.

17. The use of claim 2, wherein the polymeric proanthocyanidin has a chain length ranging from about 3 monomer units to about 30 monomer units.

18. The use of claim 13, wherein the polymeric proanthocyanidin has a chain length ranging from about 3 monomer units to about 30 monomer units.