

Claims

1. A swab comprising:
 - a rod having a longitudinal axis;
 - a tip comprising:
 - a proximal region at a distal end of the rod;
 - a distal region opposite the proximal region;
 - a plurality of posts extending from the proximal region to the distal region; and
 - a plurality of circumferential supports, each support extending between two said posts.
2. The swab of claim 1, wherein the posts and supports together form a truss.
3. The swab of claim 1 or 2, wherein each post extends parallel to the longitudinal axis.
4. The swab of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the circumferential supports comprise one or more of:
 - a support ring at the distal region, extending around a circumference of the tip; and
 - a support base at the proximal region and extending around a circumference of the tip.
5. The swab of claim 4, wherein the tip comprises a hollow volume and the support ring comprises an aperture that aligns with the hollow volume.
6. The swab of claim 4 or 5, wherein the support base comprises a fluted section connecting the tip to the distal end of the rod.

- 12 -

7. The swab of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the plurality of circumferential supports comprise one or more webs disposed between the proximal region and the distal region.
8. The swab of claim 7, comprising a plurality of said webs disposed longitudinally along the posts.
9. The swab of claim 8, wherein the webs are not connected to one another.
10. The swab of any one of claim 1 to 9, wherein each web comprises two members connected, in spaced apart relation, to the posts and are connected to each other at one or more circumferential locations between the posts.
11. The swab of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the posts taper from a wider section at the proximal region to a narrower section at the distal region.
12. The swab of claim 11, wherein the posts are thinner at the distal region than at the proximal region.
13. The swab of claim 12, wherein an internal edge of each post is parallel.
14. The swab of claim 13, wherein a cylindrical, hollow volume is defined, at least in part, by the internal edge of the posts.
15. The swab of claim 11 or 12, wherein the posts define a hollow volume that tapers in a proximal direction.
16. The swab of any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the rod comprises a handling section and a tapered section extending distally of the handling section.
17. The swab of any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the rod comprises a weakened section in the rod, spaced from the tip.

- 13 -

18. The swab of claim 16, wherein the rod comprises a weakened section in the handling section.