CLAIMS

1. A microbial composition in the form of a powder for oral administration, comprising or consisting of:

(i) micro-organisms;
(ii) sugar alcohol;
(iii) a moisture absorbent fibre, selected from the group consisting of inulin;
(iv) a powder flow agent;
optionally (v) a flavorant;
optionally (vi) a bulking agent;

and wherein the microbial composition has a water activity of less than 0.15.

2. A microbial composition as claimed in Claim 1wherein the sugar alcohol is Erythritol and/or Xylitol.

3. A microbial composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1-2 wherein the powder flow agent is silicon dioxide.

4. A microbial composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1-3 wherein the bulking agent is maltodextrin.

5. A microbial composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1-4 wherein the micro-organisms are probiotic bacteria, preferably selected from *Lactobacillus* spp. and/or *Bifidobacterium* spp.

6. A microbial composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1-5 wherein the micro-organisms are present in an amount of from 10^3 – 10^{12} colony forming units (CFU)/dose, preferably 10^8 – 10^{11} CFU/dose.

7. A sealed container filled with one or more doses of a microbial composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1-6.

8. A sealed container as claimed in Claim 7 in the form of a sachet or in tubular form such as a stick pack or straw.

9. A method of making a packaged microbial composition as claimed in any of Claims 1-8 comprising

(a) mixing ingredients (i)-(iv) and optionally (v) and/or (vi); and
(b) packaging the mixture in a sealed container.

10. A method as claimed in Claim 9 wherein one or more of the ingredients is dried to a water activity of less than 0.15 prior to mixing step (a) and/or the mixture produced in step (a) is dried to a water activity of less than 0.15.

11. A probiotic composition as claimed in any of Claims 5 or 6 for use in obtaining a probiotic effect in a subject mammal, preferably a human.

12. Use of the probiotic composition as claimed in any of Claims 5 or 6 for the manufacture of a medicament for obtaining a probiotic effect in a subject mammal, preferably a human.