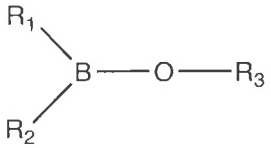
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

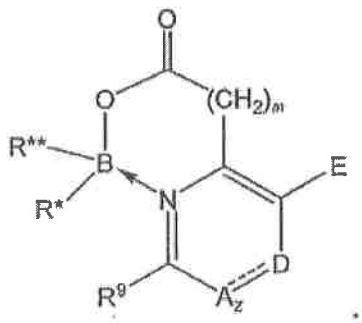
1. A topical composition ~~having a pH of at least 8, or buffered to provide a pH of at least 7,~~ comprising a compound of formula A:



Formula A

where~~in~~ R_1 and R_2 are the same or different, and are selected from aralkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, or heterocycle~~;~~, and R_3 is heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, or heteroarylalkylcarbonyl, where R3 is substituted with an oxygen-containing moiety, the compound being in free or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form; ~~in combination or association with~~and an orally or topically acceptable carrier,
wherein the composition has a pH above 7 whereby the compound is present as a nonpolar rotamer with the boron atom associated with the oxygen-containing substituent of R3.

2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the compound of Formula A is a compound of Formula (I)



Formula 1 (I)

wherein

R* and R** are independently substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle;

z is 0 or 1, with the proviso, that if z is 1, then A is CR^{10} or N, and D is N or CR^{12}, and with the further proviso that if z is 0 then D is O, S or NR^{12a};

E is ~~hydrogen,~~ hydroxy, alkoxy, (cycloalkyl)oxy, (cycloheteroalkyl)oxy, carboxy, or alkyloxycarbonyl;

11. The composition of claim 1 wherein the antioxidant is selected from ascorbic acid, sodium ascorbyl phosphate, butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), alpha tocopherol, citric acid, or a mixture thereof.
12. The composition of claim 1 wherein the solubilizing agent is a nonionic surfactant.
13. The composition of claim 1 having a pH of 8.5 - 10.
14. The composition of claim 1 in the form of a dentifrice, comprising an orally acceptable carrier, wherein the orally acceptable carrier comprises water and a humectant.
15. The composition of claim 1 wherein the compound of Formula A is in aqueous solution.
16. The composition of claim 4 wherein the buffer is a phosphate buffer.
17. The composition of claim 14, further comprising a fluoride ion source and an abrasive.
18. A method for preparing a topical composition according to claim 1 comprising mixing a compound of Formula A with an orally or topically acceptable carrier and adjusting or maintaining the pH at a level ~~of at least~~above 7.
19. ~~A method to~~Use of a composition of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for ~~reduce~~reducing, inhibiting, or treating oral microbial infections ~~comprising applying the composition of claim 1 to~~wherein said medicament is to be applied to the oral cavity of a patient in need thereof.
20. Use of a composition of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for ~~A method to reduce~~ reducing or inhibiting formation of dental caries, ~~to~~ treating, ~~reduce~~ reducing or inhibiting gingivitis, ~~to reduce~~ reducing levels of oral bacteria, ~~to~~ inhibiting microbial biofilm formation in the oral cavity, ~~to reduce~~ reducing plaque accumulation, and/or cleaning the teeth and oral cavity,
~~comprising applying a composition according to claim 1~~wherein said medicament is to be applied to the teeth and gums of a subject in need thereof.
21. A topical composition according to claim 1, suitable for application to the skin or nails, having a pH ~~of at least 8, or buffered to at least pH~~above 7, comprising an antibacterially effective amount of a compound of Formula (A); an antioxidant in an amount effective to inhibit the oxidation of the compound of Formula (A); a solubilizing agent; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
22. The composition of claim 21 wherein the compound of formula (A) is present in an amount of 0.05% to 20% by weight.
23. The composition of claim 21 wherein the antioxidant is selected from ascorbic acid, sodium ascorbyl phosphate, butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), alpha tocopherol, citric acid, or a mixture thereof.

24. The composition of claim 21 wherein the solubilizing agent is a nonionic surfactant.
25. The composition of claim 21 having a pH of 8.5 - 10.
26. The composition of claim 21 in the form of a topical cream, gel, spray or ointment.
27. The composition of claim 21 in the form of an antimicrobial soap, shampoo, or hand wash.
28. A method for preparing a topical composition of claim 21 comprising mixing a compound of Formula A with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and adjusting or maintaining the pH at a level ~~of at least~~above 7.
29. ~~A method to~~ Use of a composition of claim 21 in the manufacture of a medicament for ~~reduce~~reducing, inhibiting, or treating topical microbial infections ~~comprising applying the composition of claim 21~~wherein said medicament is to be applied to the skin of a patient in need thereof.
30. The ~~method~~ use of claim 29, wherein the condition to be treated is selected from acne, superficial skin infections, minor cuts, pathogen colonization, and inflammatory skin conditions.