

(43) International Publication Date  
18 September 2014 (18.09.2014)

## (51) International Patent Classification:

*A01N 25/28* (2006.01)    *A01N 43/70* (2006.01)  
*A01N 43/40* (2006.01)    *A01N 47/30* (2006.01)  
*A01N 59/16* (2006.01)    *A01P 1/00* (2006.01)

## (21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2014/027763

## (22) International Filing Date:

14 March 2014 (14.03.2014)

## (25) Filing Language:

English

## (26) Publication Language:

English

## (30) Priority Data:

61/788,388    15 March 2013 (15.03.2013)    US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

## Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: ENCAPSULATION OF ACTIVE INGREDIENTS AND METHOD OF MAKING

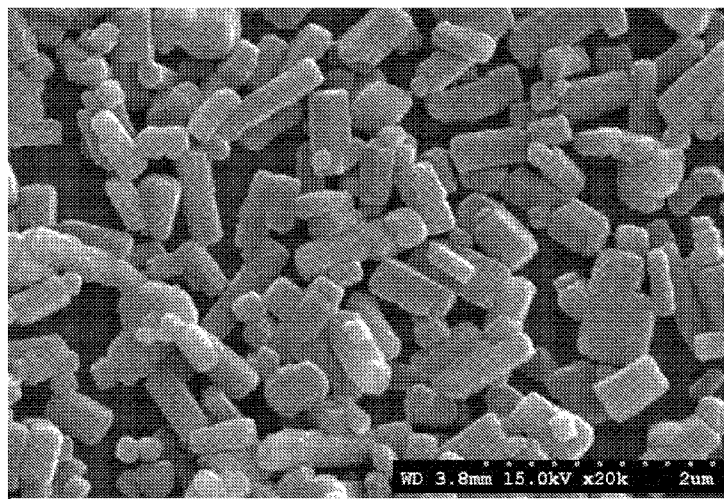


FIGURE 1

(57) **Abstract:** A method of preparing a silicon-containing polymeric structure coated/encapsulated active ingredient is disclosed. The method has the steps of providing an insoluble active ingredient; dispersing the active ingredient in a liquid medium to form a suspension of the active ingredient; adding a silicon-containing polymeric structure precursor to the suspension; and reacting the precursor to form the silicon-containing polymeric structure. The silicon-containing polymeric structure is formed around the active ingredient, thereby forming a silicon-containing polymeric structure coated/encapsulated active ingredient. The silicon-containing polymeric structure coated/encapsulated active ingredient may be used in place of the active ingredient itself.