According to the ~~invention~~disclosure these problems are solved by an aqueous composition containing bromhexine, the composition containing a quantity of sugar alcohols of less than 10 g, based on 100 ml of composition, dissolved therein.

In a first aspect, there is provided an aqueous composition containing bromhexine, consisting of:

a) bromhexine in an amount of 0.04 g to 0.4 g,
b) thickener in an amount of 0.005 g to 5 g,
c) sweetener in an amount of 0.01 g to 10 g,
d) other suitable additives selected from among preservatives, acid regulators, antifoamers, flavourings and colourings in an amount of from 0 to 10 g and
e) water ad 100 ml,

wherein the aqueous composition is free from sugar alcohols.

The compositions according to the ~~invention~~disclosure are surprisingly characterised, in spite of the small amount of sugar alcohols suitable for stabilisation, by a very low decomposition rate for the bromhexine. Consequently, there is no need for the addition of reducing agents and/or chelate complexing agents taught in the prior art.

The compositions according to the ~~invention~~disclosure are particularly suitable as a cough elixir or cough syrup, because of the known effect of bromhexine.

Accordingly, ~~in another aspect,~~ the present ~~invention~~disclosure also relates to the use of a composition according to the ~~invention~~disclosure as defined herein for secretolytic therapy in acute and chronic bronchopulmonary diseases.

In a second aspect, there is provided the use of a composition as defined above in the manufacture of a medicament for secretolytic therapy in acute and chronic bronchopulmonary diseases.

Within the scope of the present invention the term "bromhexine" denotes N-(2-amino-3,5-dibromobenzyl)-N-methylcyclohexanamine hydrochloride.

Usually, the compositions according to the invention contain bromhexine in an amount of 0.04 to 0.4 g based on 100 ml of the composition. The amount of bromhexine specified in each case refers to the quantity of the salt used. Preferably, the compositions according to the invention contain bromhexine in an amount of 0.08 bis 0.32 g, for example in an amount of 0.16 g, based in each case on 100 ml of the composition.

A particular embodiment of the present invention relates to compositions according to the invention which contain bromhexine as the sole active ingredient, i.e. so-called monopreparations.

Within the scope of the present invention the term "sugar alcohol" denotes compounds that may be obtained by reduction of a saccharide, particularly a mono- or disaccharide. Examples of sugar alcohols conventionally used as additives in pharmaceutical compositions include sorbitol, xylitol, maltitol, isomalt, mannitol, threitol, erythritol and arabitol.

The quantity of sugar alcohols in the compositions according to the invention is less than 10 g based on 100 ml of the composition. Preferably, the amount of sugar alcohols in the