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(54) **Title:** PIERCING ARRANGEMENT AND RELATED BEVERAGE EXTRACTION SYSTEM

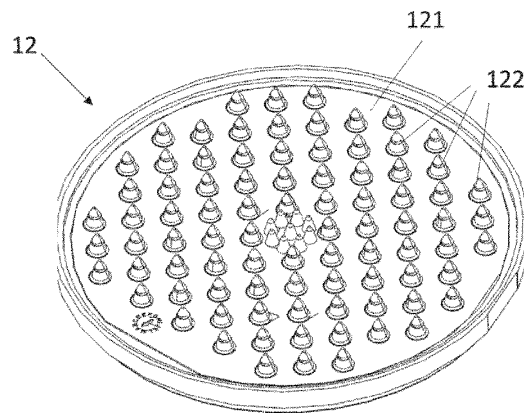


FIGURE 6A

(57) **Abstract:** The invention concerns a piercing arrangement (12) for piercing a pod containing a beverage ingredient being an assembly of an upper sub-part plate (12a) and a lower sub-part plate (12b), comprising a plate (121) provided with opening elements (122) rising from an upper surface (1211), and traversing holes (123), wherein each of the opening elements (122) present a tip end (1221), and a surface comprising a beverage outlet opening (1222) cooperating with the traversing holes (123), and wherein, for each of said opening elements (122), the beverage outlet opening (1222) is positioned above an intermediate position (h) between the upper surface (1211) of the plate and the tip end (1221) of the opening element, and the beverage outlet opening (1222) is a slit extending along a plane parallel to the plane of the upper surface (1211) of the plate, and wherein the upper sub-part plate (12a) and the lower sub-part plate (12b) are designed so that, when assembled, the beverage outlet opening (1222) and/or the opening element (122) are formed.

[Continued on next page]

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