~~REPLACEMENT SHEET~~

CLAIMS

1. An oral composition when used to control the release of a sweetening agent in an oral cavity, the oral composition comprising a polymer attached to a sweetening agent via a cleavable linker, wherein the polymer is capable of attaching to a surface in an oral cavity, and the cleavable linker is cleavable in the oral cavity to release the sweetening agent;

wherein the polymer is selected from a copolymer of maleic anhydride and methyl vinyl ether; and

wherein the cleavable linker comprises a covalent bond.

2. An oral composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is capable of attaching to the surface in the oral cavity selected from teeth, mucous membrane, gingival, cheek, tongue and lips.

3. An oral composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises a muco-adhesive polymer.

~~4. An oral composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the polymer is selected from a copolymer of maleic anhydride and methyl vinyl ether.~~

~~5~~4. An oral composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the polymer is present in an amount of between 0.001% and 10%.

~~6. An oral composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the cleavable linker comprises a covalent bond.~~

~~7~~5. An oral composition according to claim ~~6~~1, wherein the linker comprises an ester bond or an amide bond.

~~8~~6. An oral composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the cleavable linker is cleavable by hydrolysis.

~~9~~7. An oral composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the cleavable linker is cleavable by an enzyme.

~~10~~8. An oral composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the sweetening agent is selected from dextrose, polydextrose, sucrose, maltose, dextrin, dried invert sugar, mannose, xylose, ribose, fructose, levulose, galactose, corn syrup, partially hydrolyzed starch, hydrogenated starch hydrolysate, sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, maltitol, isomalt, aspartame,

neotame, saccharin and salts thereof, sucralose, dipeptide-based sweeteners, cyclamates, dihydrochalcones, and mixtures thereof.

~~11~~9. An oral composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the sweetening agent is present in an amount from 0.005% to 5%.

~~12~~10. An oral composition according to any preceding claim, wherein oral composition is adapted to release the sweetening agent from the polymer at a rate which provides enhancement of flavour sensation in the oral cavity for at least five minutes.

~~13~~11. An oral composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises an orally acceptable carrier for a toothpaste, a dental cream, a mouthwash, a chewing gum or a denture adhesive.

~~14~~12. An oral composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises one or more further agents selected from an anti-plaque agent, a whitening agent, antibacterial agent and a cleaning agent.

~~15~~13. An oral composition according to any preceding claim, which further comprises a flavouring agent.

~~16~~14. A portable dose article comprising an oral composition according to any of claims 1 to ~~15~~13, wherein the portable dose article is selected from a lozenge, a mint, a bead, a wafer, a small portable nebulizer containing said composition in liquid formulated for oral application as a spray, a small portable bottle containing said composition in liquid formulated for oral application as a drop, and a soft pliable tablet.

~~17~~15. A method for making an oral composition as defined in any of claims 1 to ~~15~~13, the method including attaching the polymer to the sweetening agent via the cleavable linker.

~~18~~16. The method according to claim ~~17~~15, wherein the polymer is attached to the sweetening agent by esterification.

~~19~~17. A method for controlling the release of a sweetening agent in an oral cavity, comprising applying to the oral cavity an oral composition as defined in any of claims 1 to ~~15~~13 or a portable

dose article as defined in claim ~~16~~14, wherein the cleavable linker is cleaved in the oral cavity to release the sweetening agent.

~~20~~18. Use of a polymer for enhancing and/or sustaining the sensation of ~~flavour~~ sweetening in an oral cavity, wherein the polymer is attached to a sweetening agent via a cleavable linker, wherein the polymer is capable of attaching to a surface in the oral cavity and the cleavable linker is cleavable in the oral cavity to release the sweetening agent, so that the sensation of ~~flavour~~ sweetening is enhanced and/or sustained; and

wherein the polymer is selected from a copolymer of maleic anhydride and methyl vinyl ether.

~~21~~19. Use according to claim ~~20~~18, wherein the polymer is as defined in any of claims 2 to ~~12~~10.

~~22~~20. Use according to claim ~~20~~ 18 or claim ~~21~~19, wherein the polymer is administered to the oral cavity in an oral composition according to any of claims ~~13~~ 11 to ~~15~~13.

~~23~~21. A method for enhancing and/or sustaining the sensation of flavour in an oral cavity, comprising applying to the oral cavity an oral composition defined in any of claims 1 to ~~15~~ 13 or a portable dose article as defined in claim ~~16~~14.