CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

A refrigerator comprising:

a storage compartment having thermally insulating walls and an open front, a back wall of the storage compartment having a part corresponding to a cold air duct, the part protruding to inside of the storage compartment,

the cold air duct extending in a vertical direction of the refrigerator along the back wall of the storage compartment, the cold air duct including a cold air passage configured to deliver cold air; and

at least one cold air discharge port configured to discharge cold air delivered through the cold air passage into the storage compartment,

the cold air passage having an elliptical cross section not being analogous to a cross section of the cold air duct, the cold air passage being arranged such that a major axis of the elliptical cross section is parallel to a lateral direction of the storage compartment at a backside of the protruding part of the back wall of the storage compartment.

[Claim 2]

The refrigerator of claim 1, further comprising at least one shelf disposed inside the storage compartment, wherein

the at least one cold air discharge port comprises a plurality of cold air discharge ports, and

the plurality of cold air discharge ports are each disposed at an upper position of each of multiple spaces divided by the at least one shelf.

[Claim 3]

The refrigerator of claim 1 or 2, wherein the cold air duct is disposed at a middle in a lateral direction of the storage compartment.

[Claim 4]

The refrigerator of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the cold air passage has the elliptical cross section of an ellipticity ranging from 0.36 to 1, where the ellipticity is defined as a ratio of a minor axis to a major axis of the elliptical cross section.

[Claim 5]

The refrigerator of any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the at least one shelf has a cutout formed along a contour of the cold air duct.

[Claim 6]

The refrigerator of any one of claims 1 to 5, comprising:

a plurality of the storage compartments; and

a plurality of the cold air passages configured to deliver cold air discharged into the respective storage compartments,

wherein each of the cold air passages has an elliptical cross section.