SMOKING COMPOSITION COMPRISING FLAVOUR PRECURSOR

This disclosure relates to smoking compositions having enhanced sensory components, and articles and methods related to such smoking compositions.

Smoking articles that heat tobacco or other sources of nicotine, without combustion of the tobacco or nicotine source, have been proposed. Such articles generate aerosols that can deliver nicotine and other tobacco constituents to a user. However, a user may perceive significantly different flavour notes from those experienced with conventional smoking articles such as cigarettes.

Accordingly, it may be desirable to incorporate flavour compounds into tobacco or other sources of nicotine that are used in non-combustion smoking articles to better approximate an experience associated with smoking a conventional cigarette. A variety of flavour compounds are known for addition to tobacco products. However, the volatility of such compounds presents challenges for incorporating the compounds into tobacco or smoking articles. For example, losses may occur during production or storage due to the volatility of the compounds.

In one aspect of the disclosure, there is provided a smoking article comprising an aerosol forming substrate, a heating element configured to heat, but not combust, the aerosol forming substrate, a flavour precursor compound added to the aerosol forming substrate, wherein the flavour precursor compound releases a thiol-containing flavour compound upon heating of the aerosol forming substrate by the heating element.

As described herein, smoking articles, in which the tobacco or other source of nicotine is heated but not combusted, deliver to a user an aerosol containing a flavour to provide the user with an experience similar to that of smoking a conventional cigarette. The articles contain a flavour composition that includes a flavour precursor, which does not have a significant odour. The flavour precursor converts into one or more flavour compounds or intermediates for flavour compounds upon heating to produce flavour notes that provide the composition with a profile more closely resembling that of conventional cigarettes.

Smoking articles described herein may provide one or more advantages. For example, the smoking articles described herein provide an enhanced flavour experience relative to smoking articles that do not include a flavour precursor. Upon heating, the flavour precursors described herein release flavour compounds or intermediates of flavour compounds comprising a thiol group. Thiol-containing flavour compounds or intermediates, such as hydrogen sulfide, methanethiol, and furfurylthiol, are more volatile than the flavour

precursor compounds. Because the flavour precursors are not volatile or are less volatile than the flavour compounds, losses during production may be mitigated and the articles may have a longer shelf life. Further, because the flavour precursor compounds are less odourous than the flavour compounds, the article does not impart substantial sulfur notes when it is not in use.