

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
06 January 2022 (06.01.2022)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2022/003200 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification:
- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|----|
| A41D 13/11 (2006.01) | A61K 33/10 (2006.01) | 2018446.1 | 24 November 2020 (24.11.2020) | GB |
| A61K 31/133 (2006.01) | A61K 33/26 (2006.01) | 2018571.6 | 25 November 2020 (25.11.2020) | GB |
| A61K 31/185 (2006.01) | A61K 33/30 (2006.01) | 2020320.4 | 21 December 2020 (21.12.2020) | GB |
| A61K 31/495 (2006.01) | A61K 38/40 (2006.01) | 2105509.0 | 18 April 2021 (18.04.2021) | GB |
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/EP2021/068425
- (22) International Filing Date: 02 July 2021 (02.07.2021)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
- | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|----|
| 2010271.1 | 03 July 2020 (03.07.2020) | GB |
| 2013976.2 | 05 September 2020 (05.09.2020) | GB |
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- (81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,

(54) Title: REDUCTION OF VIRAL INFECTIONS

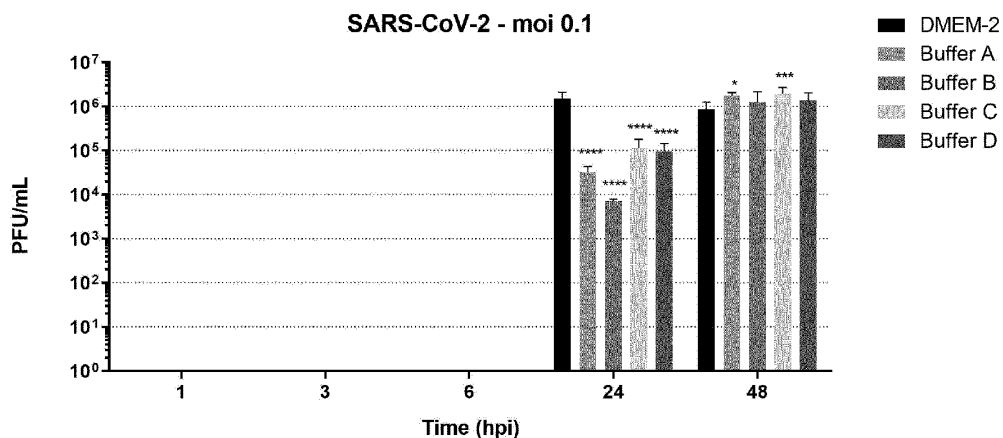


Figure 2

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a buffer composition having a pH of from 6.7 to 7.9 at a temperature of 37°C, for use in the treatment, prophylactic treatment or amelioration of an airborne viral infection, or for use in reducing viral replication in a subject infected with an airborne virus or exposed to an airborne virus capable of causing an airborne viral infection in the subject. The buffer composition may comprise an N-substituted aminosulphonic acid. The present invention also relates to a method of preparing the buffer composition, and to a concentrate of the buffer composition. The buffer composition can be used in a method of treatment, prophylactic treatment or amelioration of an airborne viral infection in a subject, and a method of reducing viral replication in a subject infected with an airborne virus or exposed to an airborne virus capable of causing an airborne viral infection in the subject. Airborne viruses include RNA viruses, such as coronaviruses, such as MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, and SARS-CoV-2. The buffer composition can be administered

[Continued on next page]

HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, IT, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

- (84) Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- *as to the identity of the inventor (Rule 4.17(i))*
- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

Published:

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*
- *with sequence listing part of description (Rule 5.2(a))*

by nasal spray, inhaler or nebulizer, or in the form of a cream, gel or emulsion, and the invention therefore also relates to a nasal spray, inhaler, nebulizer, cream, gel or emulsion comprising the buffer composition. The buffer composition can also be applied to a mask or other face covering thereby reducing the risk of viral infection with an airborne virus, and the invention therefore also relates to a spray comprising the buffer composition. The buffer composition can also be used in a receptacle through which an oxygen-containing gas is bubbled prior to inhalation by a subject, and the invention therefore also relates to a receptacle containing the buffer composition.