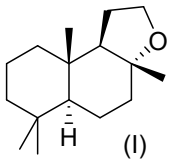
Claims:

1. A solid form of the compound according to the formula (I)




(I)

wherein said solid form is characterized in that it exhibits an x-ray diffraction pattern having at least one of the following peaks at diffraction angles 2 theta of about 15.6, 16.2, 16.7, 17.0, 17.4, 18.3 +/- 0.2°.

2. The solid form according to claim 1, wherein said solid form is further characterized by at least one of the following characteristics:-

it comprises elongate crystals having an average diameter of at least about 10 to about 400 microns measured by laser granulometry;

it comprises elongate crystals having a length along their longest dimension of greater than 100 micron; and/or

it has an L* value of 90 or more; an a* value of less than 1 and greater the -1; and a b* value, which is less than 8, wherein L*, a* and b* values represent CIELAB L*a*b* chromaticity coordinates.

3. The solid form according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the x-ray diffraction pattern exhibits all of the following peaks at diffraction angles 2 theta of about 15.6, 16.2, 16.7, 17.0, 17.4 and 18.3 +/- 0.2°.

4. A solid form according to any of the preceding claims, characterized by an x-ray diffraction pattern substantially as depicted in Figure 1.

5. A solid form according to any of the preceding claims, which is a product of a bioconversion process.

6. A solid form according to claim 5, wherein the bioconversion process is an enzyme-catalyzed cyclization of homofarnesol comprising a mixture of 7E,3E and 7E,3Z geometric isomers of homofarnesol, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a biocatalyst.

7. A solid form according to claim 6, wherein the biocatalyst is a recombinant microorganism expressing the gene coding the enzyme, or an isolated enzyme, or an immobilized enzyme.

8. A solid form according to claim 7, wherein the enzyme is a wild-type squalene hopene cyclase, or a variant of the wild-type squalene hopene cyclase.

9. A method of preparing a solid form of (-)-Ambrox as defined in any of the preceding claims, formed by a bioconversion process said method comprising the steps of:-

I) forming crystalline (-)-Ambrox in a bioconversion medium by means of a biocatalytic process; and

II) separating the crystalline (-)-Ambrox from the bioconversion medium .

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the separation step is a filtration step, a decantation step, or a combination of both a filtration step and a decantation step.

11. The method according to claim 9 or claim 10, wherein prior to the separation step, the bioconversion medium is heated to a temperature of at least 80 °C to melt the crystalline (-)-Ambrox; and thereafter slowly cooled in order that the (-)-Ambrox is recrystallized from the bioconversion medium.

12. The method according to any of the claims 9 through 11, wherein the recovered crystals of (-)-Ambrox are solubilized in a solvent, and the solution filtered through a sub-micron filter to remove any residual particulate material that was present in the bioconversion medium, before being rendered in solid form by removing the solvent by evaporation or recrystallization.

13. The method according to any of the claims 9 through 12, wherein the crystals are washed with water, water-miscible solvents or mixtures thereof, in particular with water.

14. The use of a solid form of (-)-Ambrox according to any of the claims 1 through 8 as a perfumery ingredient.

15. A perfume composition comprising the solid form of (-)-Ambrox as defined in any of the claims 1 through 8 dissolved or dispersed in said composition.

16. A household care, personal care, laundry care or air care composition comprising a perfume composition according to claim 15.