

Claims

1. A method for purifying a target molecule whereby the target molecule is a protein with a molecular weight of 10000 or more and is separated from leachables and/or extractables by contacting a liquid comprising the target molecule with spherical activated carbon with a mean particle size between 5 to 40 micrometres.
2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the target molecule is a glyco-protein.
3. Method according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that the target molecule is an antibody.
4. Method according to one or more of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the leachables and/or extractables are one or more of the following components: acetaldehyde, toluene, 2-hexanone, acetone, 2-butanone, ethyl acetate, bisphenol A, benzyl alcohol, trimethyl silanol, formaldehyde, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, 1-methylethyl ester acetic acid, 2,4-di-t-butyl phenol, 2-octanone, 2-pentanone, 3,3-dimethyl-2-butanone, 3-ethoxy-propane, 3-hexanone, 3-methoxy-1-butanol, butanal, cyclohexanone, ethanol, formic acid, heptaethylene glycol, hexanal, methyl isobutyl ketone, pentanal, t-butanol, tetrahydrofuran, methyl formate.
5. Method according to one or more of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the contact of the target molecule with the activated carbon is carried out at a pH between 3 to 9.
6. Method according to one or more of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the activated carbon has a medium particle size between 5 and 40 μ m.
7. Method according to one or more of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the target molecule is separated from leachables and/or extractables by filtration through one or more filters comprising activated carbon.
8. Method according to one or more of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that it is used in a production and/or purification process comprising one or more of the following:
 - the process of cell culture in a bioreactor
 - clarification

- chromatographic purification
- filtration

9. Method according to one or more of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the target molecule is contacted with the activated carbon after a process step in which disposable equipment is used in combination with a temperature above 25°C and/or mechanical deformation of the disposable equipment and/or in which the residence time of the target molecule in the disposable equipment is more than 1 hour.