CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

A powdery thickening composition comprising xanthan gum and a water-soluble calcium salt,

wherein the content of the xanthan gum is 20% by mass to 40% by mass, and

wherein when particle size measurement is performed on the composition by laser diffraction particle size analysis, the proportion of the number of particles having a particle size of more than 75 μm and not more than 150 μm is not more than 50% of the total number of particles, and the proportion of the number of particles having a particle size of more than 150 μm and not more than 250 μm is not less than 15% of the total number of particles.

[Claim 2]

The thickening composition according to claim 1, wherein when particle size measurement is performed on the composition by laser diffraction particle size analysis, the proportion of the number of particles having a particle size of not more than 75 μm is not more than 30% of the total number of particles.

[Claim 3]

The thickening composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein when particle size measurement is performed on the composition by laser diffraction particle size analysis, the proportion of the number of particles having a particle size of more than 250 μm and not more than 500 μm is not more than 20% of the total number of particles.

[Claim 4]

The thickening composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein when particle size measurement is performed on the composition by laser diffraction particle size analysis, the proportion of the number of particles having a particle size of not more than 500 μm is not less than 90% of the total number of particles.

[Claim 5]

The thickening composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the thickening composition has a specific surface area of 50 m^2/kg to 80 m^2/kg.

[Claim 6]

The thickening composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein when 3.0 g of the composition is

added to 100 g of deionized water at 20°C in 5 seconds while stirring the water at 3 rps, and then the water is further stirred at 3 rps for 30 seconds, the viscosity of the deionized water immediately after the stirring is not less than 350 mPa·s.

[Claim 7]

The thickening composition according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein when particle size measurement is performed on the composition by laser diffraction particle size analysis, the proportion of the number of particles having a particle size of more than 75 μm and not more than 150 μm is not less than 25% and not more than 50% of the total number of particles, and the proportion of the number of particles having a particle size of more than 150 μm and not more than 250 μm is not less than 15% and not more than 40% of the total number of particles~~the content of the xanthan gum is 20% by mass to 40% by mass~~.

[Claim 8]

The thickening composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein when particle size measurement is performed on the composition by laser diffraction particle size analysis, the proportion of the number of particles

having a particle size of more than 250 μm and not more than 500 μm is not less than 1% and not more than 20% of the total number of particles~~the thickening composition contains a water-soluble calcium salt~~.

[Claim 9]

The thickening composition according to claim 8, wherein the content of the water-soluble calcium salt is 0.5% by mass to 10.0% by mass.

[Claim 10]

The thickening composition according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the thickening composition contains a citric acid salt.

[Claim 11]

The thickening composition according to claim 10, wherein the content of the citric acid salt is 0.5% by mass to 10.0% by mass.

[Claim 12]

The thickening composition according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the thickening composition contains

an excipient, and the content of the excipient is 50% by mass to 75% by mass.

[Claim 13]

The thickening composition according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the thickening composition is produced by granulating a xanthan gum-containing powder using a binder.

[Claim 14]

A method for producing a thickening composition, comprising a granulation step of granulating a ~~xanthan gum-containing~~ powder comprising xanthan gum and a water-soluble calcium salt using a binder, wherein the content of the xanthan gum is 20% by mass to 40% by mass, and wherein the granulation in the granulation step is performed in such a manner that when particle size measurement is performed on the resulting composition by laser diffraction particle size analysis, the proportion of the number of particles having a particle size of more than 75 μm and not more than 150 μm is not more than 50% of the total number of particles, and the proportion of the number of particles having a particle size of more than 150 μm and not more

than 250 µm is not less than 15% of the total number of particles.