[CLAIMS]

[1] A process for producing a nutritional composition comprising a protein and a mineral group including two or more minerals selected from sodium, potassium, iron, calcium, and magnesium, the process comprising:

introducing

a) a powder or an aqueous solution of any one mineral that is converted to divalent ions in an aqueous solution, or

b) a mineral powder mixture containing any one mineral that is converted to divalent ions in an aqueous solution, and one or more other minerals included in the mineral group, into

an aqueous concentrated protein solution containing a whey protein in an amount of 2 to 12 g/100 ml in terms of the amount of a protein derived from the whey protein, and mixing them together, and,

when any remaining mineral species are present in the mineral group, introducing a powder of the remaining mineral species into the resultant mixed solution simultaneously or successively, and mixing them together.

[2] The process according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous concentrated protein solution, the mixed solution obtained by introducing the mineral powder or aqueous solution of a) or the mineral powder mixture of b) into the aqueous concentrated protein solution, and the mixed solution obtained by introducing the remaining mineral into the mixed solution have a fluidity high enough for mechanical stirring.

[3] The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the aqueous concentrated protein solution, the mixed solution obtained by introducing the powder of a) or the powder mixture of b) into the aqueous concentrated protein

solution, and the mixed solution obtained by introducing the remaining mineral into the mixed solution have a viscosity of 1 to 7000 mPa·s (as measured with a Brookfield viscometer under conditions of 20°C and 12 rpm).

[4] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the aqueous concentrated protein solution further comprises a saccharide and the concentration of the saccharide in the aqueous concentrated protein solution is not more than 50 g/100 ml.

[5] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the mineral that is converted to divalent ions in the aqueous solution is calcium or magnesium.

[6] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the aqueous concentrated protein solution has pH 2.5 to 8.

[7] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the nutritional composition further comprises one or more additional minerals selected from zinc, copper, manganese, selenium, molybdenum, and chromium.

[8] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the nutritional composition further comprises a lipid.

[9] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the nutritional composition has a heat quantity of 0.5 to 2.5 kcal/ml.

[10] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the nutritional composition is a food composition or a pharmaceutical composition.

[11] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the nutritional composition is a liquid food, a medical food, an enteral nutrient, a special-use food, or a food and drink for nutritional supplementation.

[12] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the nutritional composition is a food for people with difficulty in swallowing.

[13] A nutritional composition produced by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 12.

[CLAIMS]

[1] A process for producing a nutritional composition comprising a protein and a mineral group including two or more minerals selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium, the process comprising:

introducing

a) a powder or an aqueous solution of any one mineral that is converted to divalent ions in an aqueous solution, or

b) a mineral powder mixture containing any one mineral that is converted to divalent ions in an aqueous solution, and one or more other minerals included in the mineral group, into

an aqueous concentrated protein solution containing a whey protein in an amount of 2 to 12 g/100 ml in terms of the amount of a protein derived from the whey protein, and mixing them together, and,

when any remaining mineral species are present in the mineral group, introducing a powder of the remaining mineral species into the resultant mixed solution simultaneously or successively, and mixing them together.

[2] The process according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous concentrated protein solution, the mixed solution obtained by introducing the mineral powder or aqueous solution of a) or the mineral powder mixture of b) into the aqueous concentrated protein solution, and the mixed solution obtained by introducing the remaining mineral into the mixed solution have a fluidity high enough for mechanical stirring.

[3] The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the

aqueous concentrated protein solution, the mixed solution obtained by introducing the powder of a) or the powder mixture of b) into the aqueous concentrated protein solution, and the mixed solution obtained by introducing the remaining mineral into the mixed solution have a viscosity of 1 to 7000 mPa·s (as measured with a Brookfield viscometer under conditions of 20°C and 12 rpm).

[4] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the aqueous concentrated protein solution further comprises a saccharide and the concentration of the saccharide in the aqueous concentrated protein solution is not more than 50 g/100 ml.

[5] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the aqueous concentrated protein solution has pH 2.5 to 8.

[6] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the nutritional composition further comprises one or more additional minerals selected from zinc, copper, manganese, selenium, molybdenum, and chromium.

[7] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the nutritional composition further comprises a lipid.

[8] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the nutritional composition has a heat quantity of 0.5 to 2.5 kcal/ml.

[9] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the nutritional composition is a food composition or a pharmaceutical composition.

[10] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the nutritional composition is a liquid food, a medical food, an enteral nutrient, a special-use food, or a food and drink for nutritional supplementation.

[11] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the nutritional composition is a food for people with difficulty in swallowing.

[12] A nutritional composition produced by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 11.