CLAIMS:

1. A process for treating a tobacco material comprising:

(a) extracting a tobacco material with a solvent to produce a tobacco extract and a tobacco residue, wherein the tobacco extract comprises at least one nitrite compound;

(b) contacting the tobacco extract with an antioxidant, to produce a mixture having a reduced content of the at least one nitrite compound; and

(c) contacting the mixture with an antioxidant scavenger, thereby removing the antioxidant therein to produce a treated tobacco extract, wherein the antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of carotenoid terpenoids; flavonoid polyphenolics or bioflavonoids; phenolic acids and phenolic acid esters; nonflavonoid phenolics; citric acid, lignan and eugenol; and vitamins A, C and E.

2. A process according to claim 1, further comprising separating the antioxidant scavenger from the mixture in the contacting (c).

3. A process according to claim 1, further comprising applying the treated tobacco extract to the tobacco residue, following the contacting (c).

4. A process according to claim 1, further comprising removing a portion of the solvent in the treated tobacco extract, following the contacting (c).

5. A process according to claim 1, further comprising separating the tobacco residue from the tobacco extract, following the extracting (a) and prior to the contacting (b).

6. A process according to claim 1, wherein the solvent comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of water, methanol, ethanol and ethylene glycol.

7. A process according to claim 6, wherein the solvent further comprises at least one of acetone and ether.

~~8. A process according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant comprises chlorogenic acid or ascorbic acid.~~

~~9~~8. A process according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant scavenger is insoluble in the tobacco extract.

~~10~~9. A process according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant scavenger comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyvinylimidizole (PVI), polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP),

polyvinylpolypyrrolidone (PVPP), poly(vinylimidizole-*co*-vinylpyrrolidone) (PVI/PVP copolymer) and combinations thereof.

~~11~~10. A tobacco material treated by the process of claim 3.

~~12~~11. A smoking composition, smoking article or smokeless tobacco material comprising a tobacco material treated by the process of claim 3.