CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. Carrageenan for use as a medicament in the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of allergic conditions or diseases, with the proviso that the carrageenan comprises iota- and/or kappa-carrageenan and is substantially free of lambda carrageenan.

2. Carrageenan for use as a medicament according to claim 1, wherein the disease or condition is allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, food allergy, or allergic asthma.

3. Carrageenan for use as a medicament in the restoration or supplementation of impaired adsorption capacity of mucus, with the proviso that the carrageenan comprises iota- and/or kappa-carrageenan and is substantially free of lambda carrageenan.

4. Carrageenan for use as a medicament according to claim 3, wherein said mucus is in at least one of the respiratory tract, the gastrointestinal tract, and the eyes.

5. Carrageenan for use in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of allergic conditions or diseases, with the proviso that the carrageenan comprises iota- and/or kappa-carrageenan and is substantially free of lambda carrageenan.

6. Carrageenan according to claim 5, wherein the allergic condition or disease is allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, food allergy, or allergic asthma.

7. Carrageenan for use in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for the improvement or restoration of impaired adsorption capacity of mucus, with the proviso that the carrageenan comprises iota- and/or kappa-carrageenan and is substantially free of lambda carrageenan.

8. Carrageenan according to claim 7, wherein said mucus is in at least one of the respiratory tract, the gastrointestinal tract, and the eyes.

9. A method of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of allergic conditions or diseases comprising administering to mucosal surfaces of a recipient a pharmaceutical composition comprising an anti-allergic effective amount of carrageenan, with the proviso that the carrageenan comprises iota- and/or kappa-carrageenan and is substantially free of lambda carrageenan.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the administration is done by administering said composition as a liquid solution of a preselected viscosity of 20 cP or less, preferably of 1 to 10 cP, or as a foam, gel, cream, drops, lozenge, tablet, capsule, chewing gum, or dry powder to the mucosa, particularly to the mucosa of at least one of the respiratory tract, the gastrointestinal tract and the eyes, at least once a day over a desired or predetermined period of time.

11. An anti-allergic pharmaceutical composition comprising an anti-allergic effective amount of carrageenan with the proviso that the carrageenan comprises iota- and/or kappa-carrageenan and is substantially free of lambda carrageenan.

12. The composition of claim 11, comprising 0.05 to 5 % by weight, usually 0.1 - 2% wt, of iota- or kappa-carrageenan or of a mixture of both.

13. The composition of claim 12, further comprising a non-carrageenan physiologically active ingredient.

14. The composition of claim 13, wherein the ingredient is selected from the group of herbal or homeopathic agents derived from natural plant or mineral sources.

15. The composition of claim 12, further comprising a flavor, preferably selected from the group consisting of menthol, mint, spearmint, peppermint, eucalyptus, lavender, citrus, lemon, lime, or any combination thereof.

16. The composition of claim 12, further comprising at least one additive selected from the group consisting of kali bichromium, a thickening agent such as a gum or starch, a disintegrant, such as sodium starch glycolate or cross-linked povidone, a release agent such as magnesium stearate, an emulsifying agent, a surfactant, a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier, an anti-caking agent, a granulating agent, a preservative, a colorant.

17. The composition referred to in any one of claims 1 to 16, adapted as a nasal spray.

CLAIMS

1. Use of iota-carrageenan in an anti-allergic effective amount in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, or allergic asthma, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is for administration to mucosal surfaces of the respiratory tract or the eyes, with the proviso that the iota-carrageenan is substantially free of lambda-carrageenan.

2. Use of iota-carrageenan according to claim 1, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is for administration to the nasal mucosa or the mucosa of the eyes.

3. Use of iota-carrageenan according to claim 1, to restore or supplement impaired adsorption capacity of mucus.

4. Use of iota-carrageenan according to claim 1, wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises 0.05 to 5% by weight, usually 0.1 - 2% wt, of iota-carrageenan.

5. Use of iota-carrageenan according to claim 1, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises a non-carrageenan physiologically active ingredient.

6. Use of iota-carrageenan according to claim 5, wherein the ingredient is selected from the group of herbal or homeopathic agents derived from natural plant or mineral sources.

7. Use of iota-carrageenan according to claim 4, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises a flavor, preferably selected from the group consisting of menthol, mint, spearmint, peppermint, eucalyptus, lavender, citrus, lemon, lime, or any combination thereof.

8. Use of iota-carrageenan according to claim 4, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of kali bichromium, a thickening agent such as a gum or starch, a disintegrant, such as sodium starch glycolate or cross-linked povidone, a release agent such as magnesium stearate, an emulsifying agent, a surfactant, a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier, an anti-caking agent, a granulating agent, a preservative, a colorant.

9. Use of iota-carrageenan according to claim 1, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is formulated as a liquid solution of a preselected viscosity of 20 mPa*s or less, preferably of 1 to 10 mPa*s.

10. Use of iota-carrageenan according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is adapted as a nasal spray.