CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A dentifrice composition comprising:

a. an orally acceptable vehicle;

b. a source of zinc ions ,wherein the source of zinc ions comprises a zinc salt of an organic acid the zinc salt is present in an amount of from 1 to 2 wt % based on the weight of the composition;

c. a polysaccharide thickening agent, the polysaccharide thickening agent having at most 0.5 charged groups per sugar residue unit along the polysaccharide backbone, wherein the polysaccharide thickening agent comprises xanthan gum which is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 1 wt % based on the weight of the composition; and

d. an antibacterial agent which comprises a halogenated diphenyl ether, the composition comprising additionally an adherent material which comprises maleic anhydride copolymer.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide thickening agent further comprises hydroxyethyl cellulose.

3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide thickening agent consists of xanthan gum.

4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the source of zinc ions comprises zinc citrate.

5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the halogenated diphenyl ether comprises triclosan.

6. The composition of claim 5 wherein the triclosan is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 1 wt % based on the weight of the composition.

7. The composition of claim 6 wherein the triclosan is present in an amount of from 0.2 to 0.5 wt % based on the weight of the composition.

8. The composition of claim 7 further comprising maleic anhydride copolymer which comprises a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer having a molecular weight ranging from 30,000 to 1,000,000 g/mole.

9. A dentifrice composition comprising

a. an orally acceptable vehicle;

b. triclosan as an antibacterial agent;

c. a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer as an enhancing agent for the antibacterial agent;

d. a zinc salt of an organic acid as a source of zinc ions; and

e. a polysaccharide thickening agent, the polysaccharide thickening agent consisting of xanthan gum;

wherein the xanthan gum is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 1.5 wt % based on the weight of the composition, the zinc salt is present in an amount of from 1 to 2.5 wt % based on the weight of the composition, and the triclosan is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 1 wt % based on the weight of the composition.

10. A dentifrice composition according to any one of claims 1 to 9, for use in a method for the treatment and prevention of bacterial plaque accumulation said method comprising: administering said dentrifice composition to the oral cavity.

11. The composition of claim 2 wherein the source of zinc ions comprises zinc citrate.

12. The composition of claim 11 wherein the halogenated diphenyl ether comprises triclosan.

13. The composition of claim 12 wherein the triclosan is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 1 wt % based on the weight of the composition.

14. The composition of claim 13 further comprising maleic anhydride copolymer which comprises a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer having a molecular weight ranging from 30,000 to 1,000,000 g/mole.

15. The composition of claim 3 wherein the source of zinc ions comprises zinc citrate.

16. The composition of claim 15 wherein the halogenated diphenyl ether comprises triclosan.

17. The composition of claim 16 wherein the triclosan is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 1 wt % based on the weight of the composition.

18. The composition of claim 17 further comprising maleic anhydride copolymer which comprises a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer having a molecular weight ranging from 30,000 to 1,000,000 g/mole.

19. Use of a dentifrice composition according to any one of claims 1 to 18, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing bacterial plaque accumulation.

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A dentifrice composition comprising:

a. an orally acceptable vehicle;

b. a source of zinc ions ,wherein the source of zinc ions comprises a zinc salt of an organic acid the zinc salt is present in an amount of from 1 to 2 wt % based on the weight of the composition;

c. a polysaccharide thickening agent, the polysaccharide thickening agent having at most 0.5 charged groups per sugar residue unit along the polysaccharide backbone, wherein the polysaccharide thickening agent comprises xanthan gum which is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 1 wt % based on the weight of the composition; and

d. an antibacterial agent which comprises a halogenated diphenyl ether, the composition comprising additionally an adherent material which comprises maleic anhydride copolymer.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide thickening agent further comprises hydroxyethyl cellulose.

3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide thickening agent consists of xanthan gum.

4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the source of zinc ions comprises zinc citrate.

5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the halogenated diphenyl ether comprises triclosan.

6. The composition of claim 5 wherein the triclosan is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 1 wt % based on the weight of the composition.

7. The composition of claim 6 wherein the triclosan is present in an amount of from 0.2 to 0.5 wt % based on the weight of the composition.

8. The composition of claim 7 further comprising maleic anhydride copolymer which comprises a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer having a molecular weight ranging from 30,000 to 1,000,000 g/mole.

9. A dentifrice composition comprising

a. an orally acceptable vehicle;

b. triclosan as an antibacterial agent;

c. a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer as an enhancing agent for the antibacterial agent;

d. a zinc salt of an organic acid as a source of zinc ions; and

e. a polysaccharide thickening agent, the polysaccharide thickening agent consisting of xanthan gum.

10. The composition of claim 9 wherein the xanthan gum is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 1.5 wt % based on the weight of the composition, the zinc salt is present in an amount of from 1 to 2.5 wt % based on the weight of the composition, and the triclosan is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 1 wt % based on the weight of the composition.

11. A dentifrice composition according to claim 1, for use in a method for the treatment and prevention of bacterial plaque accumulation said method comprising: administering said dentrifice composition to the oral cavity.

12. The composition of claim 2 wherein the source of zinc ions comprises zinc citrate.

13. The composition of claim 12 wherein the halogenated diphenyl ether comprises triclosan.

14. The composition of claim 13 wherein the triclosan is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 1 wt % based on the weight of the composition.

15. The composition of claim 14 further comprising maleic anhydride copolymer which comprises a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer having a molecular weight ranging from 30,000 to 1,000,000 g/mole.

16. The composition of claim 3 wherein the source of zinc ions comprises zinc citrate.

17. The composition of claim 16 wherein the halogenated diphenyl ether comprises triclosan.

18. The composition of claim 17 wherein the triclosan is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 1 wt % based on the weight of the composition.

19. The composition of claim 18 further comprising maleic anhydride copolymer which comprises a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer having a molecular weight ranging from 30,000 to 1,000,000 g/mole.

20. Use of a dentifrice composition according to any one of claims 1 to 19, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing bacterial plaque accumulation.