CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A collapsible travel bottle comprising:

a flexible main body comprising an inner space for receiving a liquid therein, the flexible main body including an upper portion, a middle portion, and a lower portion;

an opening in the upper portion in communication with the inner space to allow receiving and discharging of the liquid within the flexible main body;

a flat bottom portion in the lower portion to allow retaining of the liquid within the flexible main body;

a rigid collar that couples to the upper portion proximate the opening;

a rigid cap that couples to the rigid collar to restrict receiving and discharging of the liquid within the flexible main body through the opening;

an upper articulating wall connecting the middle portion to the upper portion;

a lower articulating wall connecting the middle portion to the lower portion; ~~and~~

the middle portion configured to enable both the ~~top~~ upper portion and the middle portion to collapse fully into the ~~bottom~~lower portion~~.~~;

the lower portion configured to have an outer diameter that increases to a maximum outer diameter as the lower portion extends from the lower articulation wall down towards the flat bottom portion of the lower portion and that then decreases as the lower portion continues to extend down to the flat bottom portion of the lower portion; and

a reinforcing element circumferentially embedded within the lower portion as to extend from the lower articulation wall down to the flat bottom portion of the lower portion.

2. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 1, wherein the middle portion is comprised of a plurality minor stages that are interconnected and are positioned in-between ~~an~~the upper articulating wall and ~~a~~the lower articulating wall~~;~~

~~wherein the upper articulating wall connects the plurality of interconnected minor stages to the upper portion~~, ~~and~~

~~wherein the lower articulating wall connects the plurality of interconnected minor stages to the lower portion~~.

3. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of minor stages is ~~each~~ diamond shaped and are interconnected at their longitudinal ends.

4. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 2, wherein the upper articulating wall collapses to allow the upper portion to transition partially into a portion of the inner space defined by the middle portion, and

wherein the lower articulating wall collapses to allow the middle portion to transition partially into a portion of the inner space defined by the lower portion.

5. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 4, wherein the plurality ~~interconnected~~ of minor stages fold onto one another to allow the upper portion and the middle portion to transition fully into the portion of the inner space defined by the lower portion.

6. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 1, wherein the upper portion, the middle portion, and the ~~bottom~~ lower portion are composed of silicone rubber.

7. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 6, wherein the upper portion, the middle portion, and the ~~bottom~~lower portion are each composed of a synthetic elastomer.

8. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 1, further comprising a circumferential seating wall extending from the upper portion.

9. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 8, wherein the circumferential seating wall has a diameter and a height generally equal to a diameter and a height of the rigid collar.

10. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 8, further comprising an upper retaining ridge extending from a first perimeter edge of the circumferential seating wall, the upper retaining ridge sandwiched between the rigid collar and the rigid cap while the rigid cap is coupled to the rigid collar.

11. The collapsible travel bottle of claim ~~8~~10, further comprising a lower retaining ridge extending from a second perimeter edge of the circumferential seating wall, the second perimeter edge opposite the first perimeter edge.

12. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 1, wherein the rigid cap is coupled to the rigid collar using a threated connection between the rigid cap and the rigid collar.

~~13. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 1, wherein the bottom portion has a generally round bowl shape.~~

~~14.~~13. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 1, wherein the lower portion includes a flat base.

~~15. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 1, wherein the lower portion includes a circumferential reinforcing element.~~

~~16.~~14. The collapsible travel bottle of claim ~~15~~1, wherein the reinforcing element is comprised of a thicker version of the same material as the rest of the flexible main body.

~~17.~~15. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 1, wherein the upper portion and the middle portion have a generally tapered conical shape.

~~18.~~16. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 1, further comprising a restraining strap that couples the rigid cap to the rigid collar.

~~19.~~17. The collapsible travel bottle of claim 1, further comprising a pair of opposite facing tabs extending downward from the rigid collar towards the lower portion.

~~20.~~18. A method of manufacturing a collapsible travel bottle including the steps of:

providing a flexible main body comprising an inner space for receiving a liquid therein, the flexible main body including an upper portion, a middle portion, and a lower portion;

providing an opening in the upper portion in communication with the inner space to allow receiving and discharging of the liquid within the flexible main body;

providing a flat bottom portion in the lower portion to allow retaining of the liquid within the flexible main body;

providing a rigid collar that couples to the upper portion proximate the opening;

providing a rigid cap that couples to the rigid collar to restrict receiving and discharging of the liquid within the flexible main body through the opening;

providing an upper articulating wall connecting the middle portion to the upper portion;

providing a lower articulating wall connecting the middle portion to the lower portion; ~~and~~

providing that the middle portion is configured to enable both the ~~top~~ upper portion and the middle portion to collapse fully into the ~~bottom~~lower portion~~.~~;

providing that the lower portion has an outer diameter that increases to a maximum outer diameter as the lower portion extends from the lower articulating wall down towards the flat bottom portion of the lower portion and that then decreases as the lower portion continues to extend down to the flat bottom portion of the lower portion; and

providing a reinforcing element embedded circumferentially within the lower portion as to extend from

the lower articulating wall down to the flat bottom portion of the lower portion.