CLAIMS

1. Method for rearing beetles for preparing a beetle powder including a percentage by weight of vitamin D3 greater than or equal to at least 0.000010%, said percentage by weight being given on the total weight of beetle powder,
which includes a light treatment phase during which a UV source emits ultraviolet rays towards the beetles.

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the light treatment phase is applied during the larval stage and/or the nymph stage of the beetles.

3. Method according to claim 2, wherein the light treatment stage starts between the sixth week and the twelfth week of growth of the larvae, preferably between the ninth and the eleventh week.

4. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the light treatment phase has a treatment duration between one and six weeks, preferably between two and four weeks.

5. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the ultraviolet rays emitted by the UV source towards the beetle larvae are:
   - UVB type and consist of electromagnetic radiation wherein the wavelength is between 280 nm and 320 nm, and/or
   - UVA type and consist of electromagnetic radiation wherein the wavelength is between 320 nm and 400 nm.

6. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein, during the light treatment phase, the UV source is positioned at a defined distance from the beetle larvae of the order of 2 to 250 cm.

7. Method according to claim 6, wherein the distance between the UV source and the beetle larvae is between 10 and 100 cm.

8. Method according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the distance between the UV source and the beetle larvae is between 15 and 50 cm.

9. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the UV source has a radiation power between 13 and 125 Watts.

10. Method according to claim 9, wherein the radiation power is between 20 and 50 Watts.

11. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein during the light treatment phase, the UV source emits the ultraviolet rays towards the beetle larvae according to treatment periods between ten hours and twenty-four hours continuously or cumulatively over a twenty-four hour period.

12. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the beetle larvae are kept in an environment having a substantially constant temperature between 24 and 30°C, preferably between 26 and 28°C.

13. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the beetle larvae are kept in an environment having a substantially constant hygrometry between 45 and 70% relative humidity, preferably between 55 and 65%.

14. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 13, which includes, prior to the start of the light treatment phase, an initial so-called darkness phase during which, after hatching the beetle larvae, the larvae are kept in darkness between twelve and twenty-two hours per day, preferably between eighteen and twenty hours per day.

15. Method according to claim 14 linked with claim 12 and 13, wherein the temperature and/or hygrometry of the environment of the beetle larvae is controlled such that, between the darkness and light treatment phases, the difference in temperatures is less than or equal to 2°C and/or the difference in hygrometries is less than or equal to 10% relative humidity.

16. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the beetle larvae are fed with a diet based on plants and/or vegetables.

17. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the beetles are selected from the following species: *Tenebrio molitor*, *Alphitobus diaperinus*.