

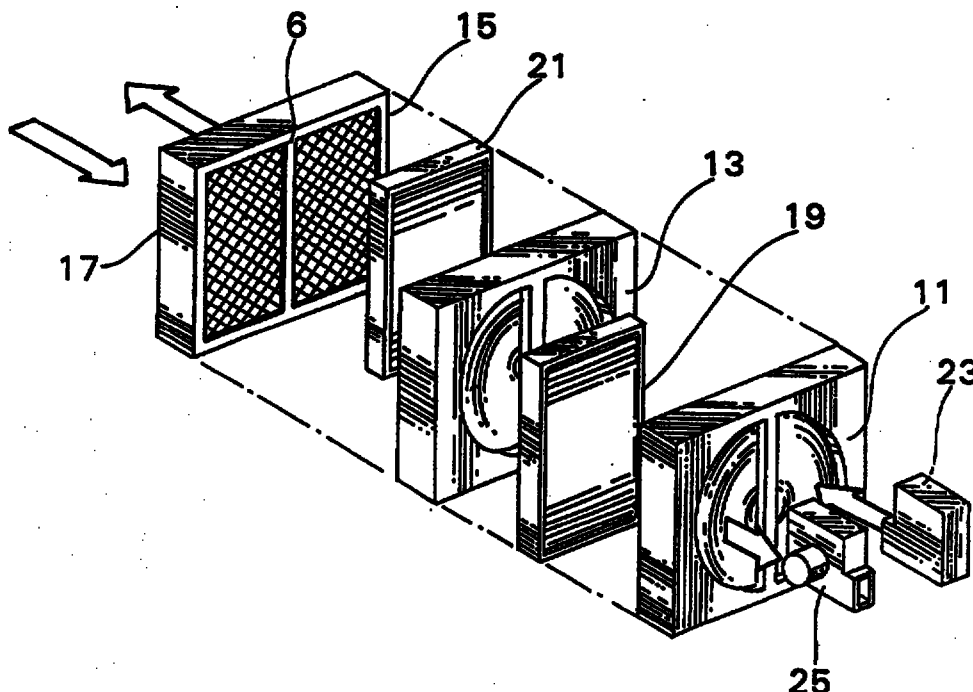


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(54) Title: METHOD FOR KILLING MICROORGANISMS**(57) Abstract**

The concentration of airborne microorganisms can be substantially reduced by passing air containing a concentration of microorganisms through a core of desiccant. Preferably, the core of desiccant is present in a moisture transfer wheel (11), which forms part of an open-cycle air conditioning system. The preferred desiccant is a large-pored crystalline titanium molecular sieve, which can be regenerated into an essentially anhydrous state at a regeneration temperature of less than about 200 degrees Fahrenheit, and thereafter can absorb moisture from air to provide air having a vapor pressure of less than about 3 torr.

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