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(54) Title: A METHOD OF PRODUCING A PROCESSED KAVA PRODUCT HAVING AN ALTERED KAVALACTONE DISTRIBUTION AND PROCESSED KAVA PRODUCTS PRODUCED USING THE SAME

(57) Abstract: A method of producing a processed kava product involves using an extraction solvent, such as liquid CO_2, to preferentially extract different kavalactones from the source material at different rates. By controlling the extraction parameters and stopping the extraction before all of the kavalactones have been extracted or allowing the extracted kavalactones to be preferentially precipitated in one or more collection environments, a processed kava product can be produced that has a kavalactone distribution profile that can differ substantially from that of the source material. As a result, roots from a less desirable kava cultivar can be used to produce a processed kava product which bas a kavalactone distribution profile that is similar to that of a highly desired cultivar. The kava paste can be further processed to produce a dry flowable powder suitable for use in, e.g., a tableting formula. A rapid dissolve tablet formulation for use in the delivery of kavalactones is also disclosed.