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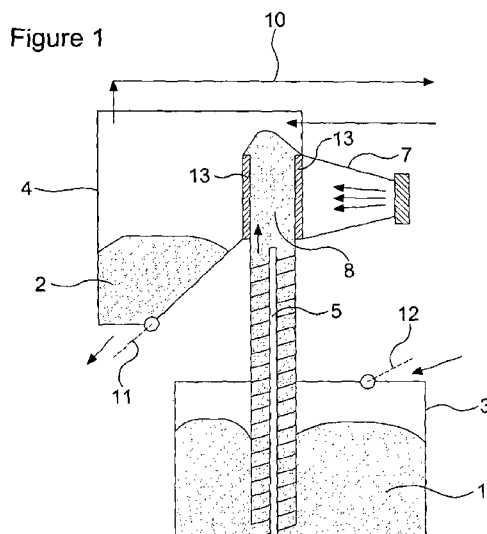
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(54) Title: TREATMENT OF HYDROCARBON CONTAINING MATERIALS



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for separating a hydrocarbon content from a material matrix comprises the hydrocarbon content and a water content, the apparatus comprising: a material feeder arranged to feed material through a treatment chamber, the treatment chamber comprising a window which is substantially transparent to microwaves; a microwave emitter arranged in use to expose feed material in the treatment chamber to microwaves in order to cause rapid heating of at least part of the water content of the matrix to form steam, so as to remove at least part of the hydrocarbon content from the matrix; wherein the material feeder and treatment chamber are arranged so that in use, the treatment chamber is substantially filled with material matrix.

