What is Claimed is:

1. A precipitation stable aqueous composition consisting essentially of from about 0.4% w/v to less than about 2% w/v of a salt of deoxycholic acid and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein said composition is maintained at a pH of about 8.1 to about 8.5.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said salt of deoxycholic acid is present in an amount from about 0.5% w/v to about 1% w/v.

3. The composition of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said salt of deoxycholic acid is present in an amount of about 0.5% w/v.

4. The composition of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said salt of deoxycholic acid is present in an amount of about 1% w/v.

5. The composition of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said excipient is a solvent, a buffer, a preservative, a lyophilization aid, or any combination thereof.

6. The composition of claim 5, wherein said excipient is a solvent ,such as sterile water.

7. The composition of claim 5, wherein said excipient is a preservative, such as benzyl alcohol.

8. The composition of claim 7, wherein said preservative is 0.9% benzyl alcohol.

9. The composition of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein said composition has a pH of about 8.3.

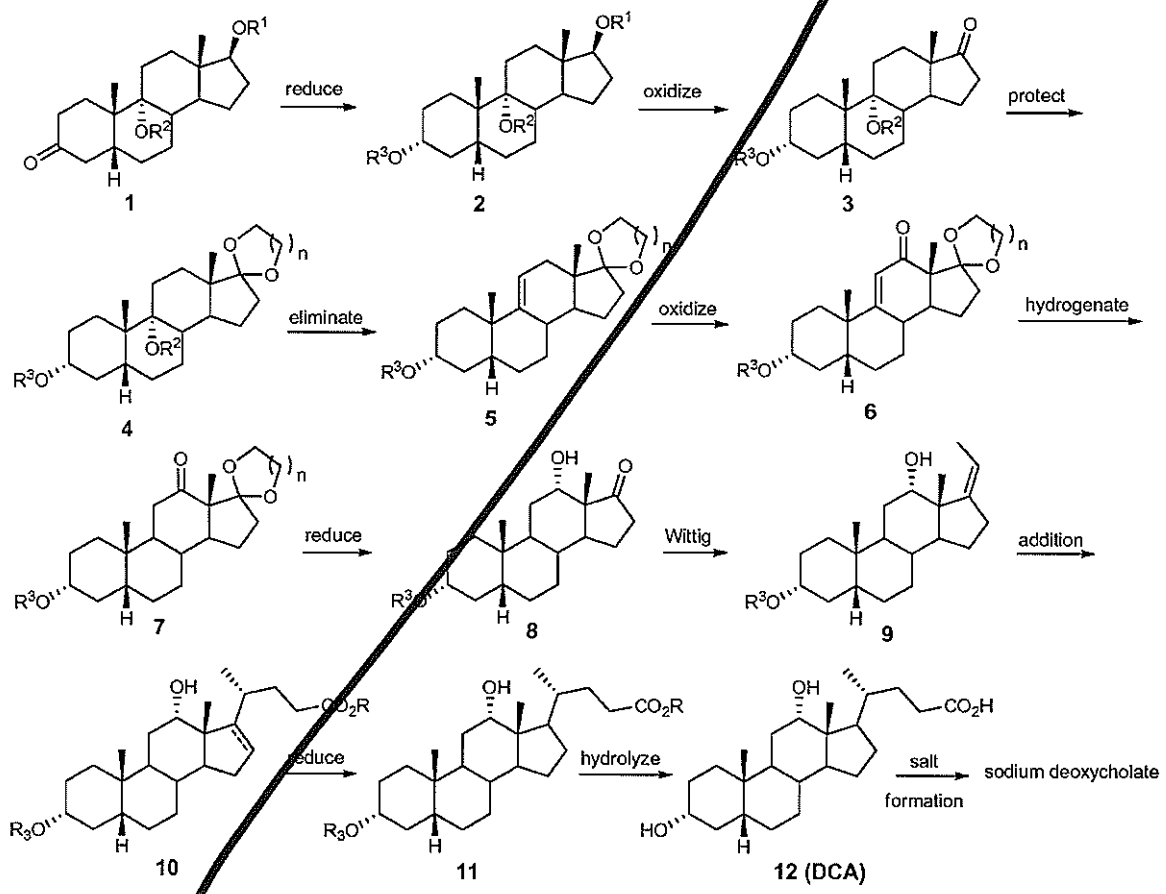
10. The composition of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said salt is an alkali metal salt.

11. The composition of claim 10, wherein said alkali metal salt is sodium.

12. A precipitation stable aqueous composition consisting essentially of:
a sterile aqueous solution buffered to a pH of about 8.3;
about 0.5% w/v of sodium deoxycholate;
about 0.9% w/v benzyl alcohol; and
about 1% w/v of sodium chloride.

13. A precipitation stable aqueous composition consisting essentially of:
an aqueous solution buffered to a pH of about 8.3;
about 1% w/v of sodium deoxycholate;
about 0.9% w/v benzyl alcohol; and
about 1% w/v of sodium chloride.

14. The composition of any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the deoxycholic acid is synthesized according to the following scheme:



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15. A method of lysing a fat cell comprising administering to said cell a composition of any of claims 1 to 14.

CLAIMS

1. An aqueous pharmaceutical composition consisting essentially of less than 5.0% w/v of a salt of deoxycholic acid and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and/or carrier wherein said composition has a pH of from 8.0 to 8.5.

2. The aqueous pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 that is precipitation stable and consists essentially of less than 5.0% w/v of a salt of deoxycholic acid and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein said composition is maintained at a pH of 8.0 to 8.5.

3. The aqueous pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 that is precipitation stable and consists essentially of from 0.4% w/v to less than 2% w/v of a salt of deoxycholic acid and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein said composition is maintained at a pH of 8.1 to 8.5

4. The aqueous pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 that is precipitation stable and consists essentially of from 0.4% w/v to 1% w/v of a salt of deoxycholic acid and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, and wherein said composition is maintained at a pH from 8.2 to 8.5.

5. The aqueous pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said composition has an initial pH of 8.3.

6. Th e aqueous pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is maintained at a pH sufficient to substantially inhibit precipitation of a salt of deoxycholic acid.

7. The aqueous pharmaceutical composition of claim 6 wherein the precipitation of a salt of deoxycholic acid is substantially inhibited for a period of at least six months.

8. A method of claim 1 for inhibiting precipitation of a salt of deoxycholic acid in said aqueous pharmaceutical composition, wherein said aqueous pharmaceutical composition consists essentially of an aqueous solution comprising less than 5.0% w/v of a salt of deoxycholic acid and at least one pharmaceutically

acceptable excipient and/or carrier, said method comprising maintaining pH of the aqueous solution from 8.0 to 8.5.

9. A method of claim 1 for stabilizing an aqueous solution of a salt of deoxycholic acid against precipitation during a shelf life, comprising forming an aqueous solution of a deoxycholic acid salt at an initial pH above the pKa of the deoxycholic acid salt and adjusting the pH of the aqueous solution to be above 8, wherein the aqueous solution comprises from 0.4% w/v to 2% w/v deoxycholic acid salt and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

10. The composition of claims 1-7 for use in dissolving fat.

11. Use of the composition of claims 1-7 for the manufacture of a medicament for use in dissolving fat.

12. An aqueous pharmaceutical composition consisting essentially of:

an aqueous solution buffered to a pH of about 8.3;

about 0.5% w/v of sodium deoxycholate;

optionally about 0.9% w/v benzyl alcohol; and

about 1% w/v of sodium chloride,

wherein the composition is stable against precipitation.

13. An aqueous pharmaceutical composition consisting essentially of:

an aqueous solution buffered to a pH of about 8.3;

about 1% w/v of sodium deoxycholate;

optionally about 0.9% w/v benzyl alcohol; and

about 1% w/v of sodium chloride,

wherein the composition is stable against precipitation.