CLAIMS

1. A microbial composition in the form of a powder for oral administration, comprising or consisting of:

(i) micro-organisms;
(ii) sugar alcohol;
(iii) a moisture absorbent fibre, selected from the group consisting of inulin;
(iv) a powder flow agent;
optionally (v) a flavorant;
optionally (vi) a bulking agent;

wherein:

- the moisture absorbent fibre is in an amount from 20-25% w/w,
- the microbial composition has a water activity of less than 0.15,
- the ratio of (ii) sugar alcohol to (iii) moisture absorbent fibre is 3:1 and
- the sugar alcohol is erythritol, or the sugar alcohol is a combination of erythritol and xylitol in a ratio of 2:1.

2. A microbial composition as claimed in Claim 1wherein the powder flow agent is silicon dioxide.

3. A microbial composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1-2 wherein the bulking agent is maltodextrin.

4. A microbial composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1-3 wherein the micro-organisms are probiotic bacteria, preferably selected from *Lactobacillus* spp. and/or *Bifidobacterium* spp.

5. A microbial composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1-4 wherein the micro-organisms are present in an amount of from 10^3 – 10^{12} colony forming units (CFU)/dose, preferably 10^8 – 10^{11} CFU/dose.

6. A sealed container filled with one or more doses of a microbial composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1-5.

7. A sealed container as claimed in Claim 6 in the form of a sachet or in tubular form such as a stick pack or straw.

8. A method of making a packaged microbial composition as claimed in any of Claims 1-7 comprising

(a) mixing ingredients (i)-(iv) and optionally (v) and/or (vi); and
(b) packaging the mixture in a sealed container.

9. A method as claimed in Claim 8 wherein one or more of the ingredients is dried to a water activity of less than 0.15 prior to mixing step (a) and/or the mixture produced in step (a) is dried to a water activity of less than 0.15.

10. A probiotic composition as claimed in any of Claims 4 or 5 for use in obtaining a probiotic effect in a subject mammal, preferably a human.