

[DESCRIPTION]

[TITLE OF INVENTION]

PREMIX FOR PREPARING EMULSION COMPOSITION, AND COMPOSITION
USING SAME

5 [Technical Field]

[0001] The present invention relates to a premix for preparing an emulsion composition,
and a composition using the same.

[Background Art]

[0002] Although highly unsaturated fatty acids typified by docosahexaenoic acid
10 (DHA) and eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) have attracted much attention because of their
health benefits, since they are easily oxidized, there are few examples in which they are
used in general foods.

For example, in Patent Literature 1, foods containing DHA are described, and
milk is described as an example of such a food.

15 In addition, in Patent Literature 2, milk containing DHA and the like as nutrition
components is described.

[Reference List]

[Patent Literature]

[0003] [Patent Literature 1]

20 Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. H7-227227

[Patent Literature 2]

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2002-209513

[Summary of Invention]

[Technical Problem]

25 [0004] An objective of the present invention relates to a premix for preparing an

emulsion composition which makes it possible to easily prepare foods containing a highly unsaturated fatty acid such as DHA or EPA and a method of producing an emulsion composition using the same.

[Solution to Problem]

- 5 [0005] In order to solve the above problems, first, the inventors examined documents of the related art in detail.

Patent Literature 1 describes milk containing DHA and the like, but it is necessary to use a polyhydric alcohol or a water-containing polyhydric alcohol as a hydrophilic medium, and realization may be limited.

- 10 Patent Literature 2 describes milk containing DHA and the like as nutrition components, but they are added as a capsule, and this addition is very complicated.

- [0006] The inventors conducted further extensive studies, and as a result, found that, by mixing oils and fats containing a highly unsaturated fatty acid with oils and fats having a predetermined melting point in advance to form an oil phase, and mixing this oil phase
15 with an aqueous phase to prepare a premix for preparing an emulsion composition as an oil-in-water type emulsion composition, a composition prepared using the same could be used to obtain a product with favorable flavor in which the occurrence of an off-flavor derived from a highly unsaturated fatty acid is reduced, and thereby completed the present invention.

- 20 [0007] That is, the present invention relates to the following aspects.

(1) A premix for preparing an emulsion composition which satisfies the following requirements:

1. oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA are included in an oil phase;

2. oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C are included in the oil phase at 25 to 99.5 weight%, where the oils and fats amount to 0.8 times the weight of a total amount of DHA and EPA or more;

3. an aqueous phase is 0.8 to 280 times the weight of the oil phase; and

5 4. the oil phase and the aqueous phase constitute an oil-in-water type emulsified oil and fat composition.

(2) The premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to (1), wherein the oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C according to (1) are lauric oils and fats.

10 (3) The premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to (1), wherein water soluble proteins are dissolved in the aqueous phase.

(4) The premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to (2), wherein water soluble proteins are dissolved in the aqueous phase.

15 (5) The premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to (4), further containing a water-soluble emulsifier and/or an oil-soluble emulsifier.

(6) The premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to any one of (1) to (5), wherein oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA in which an aqueous phase in which a water-soluble antioxidant is contained in the aqueous phase at 2.5 to 65 weight%, and additionally a carbohydrate is added so that a water-soluble solid content
20 in the aqueous phase is 18 to 79 weight% in total is dispersed in an oil phase at 1 to 38 weight% are used.

(7) A method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition including the following processes:

1. a process of preparing an oil phase including oils and fats containing DHA
25 and/or EPA and oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C at 25 to 99.5 weight%,

where the oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C are contained in an amount of 0.8 times the weight of a total amount of DHA and EPA or more;

2. a process of preparing an aqueous phase having an amount 0.8 to 280 times the weight of the oil phase; and

5 3. a process of mixing the oil phase and the aqueous phase to obtain an oil-in-water type emulsified oil and fat composition.

(8) The method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to (7), wherein the oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C are lauric oils and fats.

10 (9) The method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to (7), wherein water soluble proteins are dissolved in the aqueous phase.

(10) The method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to (8), wherein water soluble proteins are dissolved in the aqueous phase.

(11) The method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition
15 according to (7), further including a process of incorporating a water-soluble emulsifier and/or an oil-soluble emulsifier.

(12) The method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to any one of (7) to (11), wherein oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA in which an aqueous phase in which a water-soluble antioxidant is contained in the aqueous
20 phase at 2.5 to 65 weight%, and additionally a carbohydrate is added so that a water-soluble solid content in the aqueous phase is 18 to 79 weight% in total is dispersed in an oil phase at 1 to 38 weight% are used.

(13) A method of producing a food or drink product containing DHA and/or EPA including diluting the premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to
25 (6) by a factor of 1 to 100 by weight.

(14) A method of reducing an off-flavor derived from DHA and/or EPA in a food or drink product containing DHA and/or EPA using the premix according to (6).

[0008] In other words, the present invention relates to the following aspects.

(21) A method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition
5 including the following processes:

1. a process of preparing an oil phase including oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA and oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C at 25 to 99.5 weight%, where the oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C are contained in an amount of 0.8 times the weight of a total amount of DHA and EPA or more;

10 2. a process of preparing an aqueous phase having an amount 0.8 to 280 times the weight of the oil phase; and

3. a process of mixing the oil phase and the aqueous phase to obtain an oil-in-water type emulsified oil and fat composition.

(22) The method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition
15 according to (21), wherein the oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C are lauric oils and fats.

(23) The method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to (21) or (22), wherein water soluble proteins are dissolved in the aqueous phase.

20 (24) The method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to any one of (21) to (23), further including a process of incorporating a water-soluble emulsifier and/or an oil-soluble emulsifier.

(25) The method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to any one of (21) to (24), wherein oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA
25 in which an aqueous phase in which a water-soluble antioxidant is contained in the

aqueous phase at 2.5 to 65 weight%, and additionally a carbohydrate is added so that a water-soluble solid content in the aqueous phase is 18 to 79 weight% in total is dispersed in an oil phase at 1 to 38 weight% are used.

(26) A method of producing a food or drink product containing DHA and/or EPA including diluting the premix for preparing an emulsion composition produced by the production method according to any one of (21) to (25) by a factor of 1 to 100 by weight.

(27) A method of reducing an off-flavor derived from DHA and/or EPA in a food or drink product containing DHA and/or EPA using the premix produced by the method according to any one of (21) to (25).

[Advantageous Effects of Invention]

[0009] According to the present invention, it is possible to obtain a premix for preparing an emulsion composition which makes it possible to easily prepare a beverage and the like containing a highly unsaturated fat such as DHA and EPA, and it is possible to obtain a food or drink product in which the occurrence of an off-flavor is reduced even though a highly unsaturated fatty acid is contained using the same.

[Description of Embodiments]

[0010] In the present invention, oils and fats containing DHA or EPA are defined as those in which one or more selected from DHA and EPA is contained as one or more of the constituent fatty acids of the oils and fats, that is, triglycerides.

In the present invention, an amount of DHA or EPA refers to an amount of DHA or EPA as a fatty acid in oils and fats containing DHA or EPA as a constituent fatty acid.

[0011] The present invention relates to a premix for preparing an emulsion composition (hereinafter simply referred to as a premix) which makes it possible to easily prepare foods containing a highly unsaturated fatty acid such as DHA and EPA and an emulsion

composition using the same. Here, in order to be called a “premix for preparing an emulsion composition,” the premix itself needs to have favorable flavor, and also needs to be stably emulsified and withstand distribution. A specific evaluation method will be described in examples.

5 [0012] The premix according to the present invention is an oil-in-water type emulsified oil and fat composition. Here, in the present invention, oils and fats containing a highly unsaturated fatty acid subjected to an antioxidant treatment may be used as necessary. Then, when an aqueous phase is dispersed according to the antioxidant treatment for the oils and fats containing a highly unsaturated fatty acid, strictly speaking, double
10 emulsification of W/O/W may be caused. In the present invention, a composition related to an emulsification system in which the outmost phase is an aqueous phase and an oil phase is present therein including such double emulsification is referred to as an oil-in-water type emulsified oil and fat composition.

[0013] In the present invention, oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA are used.

15 The oils and fats may be derived from any substance. Concentrations of DHA and EPA in oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA are not limited. However, in the premix for preparing an emulsion composition, a total amount of DHA and EPA is preferably 0.05 to 30 weight%. The amount is more preferably 0.07 to 27 weight% and further more preferably 0.09 to 25 weight%. When an appropriate amount is included, it is
20 possible to obtain foods and drinks with favorable flavor while containing DHA and the like using this premix.

Here, DHA and EPA are present as constituent components of triglycerides in oils and fats, and of course, are not present as fatty acids in the present invention. Thus, their amounts are values measured as fatty acids in analysis.

[0014] Oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA that have been subjected to an antioxidant treatment are preferably used. An antioxidant treatment method can be appropriately selected. As an example, a method in which an aqueous phase in which a water-soluble antioxidant has dissolved is dispersed in an oil phase containing oils and fats containing a highly unsaturated fatty acid can be exemplified.

More specifically, preferably, oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA in which an aqueous phase in which a water-soluble antioxidant is contained in the aqueous phase at 2.5 to 65 weight%, and additionally a carbohydrate is added so that a water-soluble solid content in the aqueous phase is 18 to 79 weight% in total is dispersed at 1 to 38 weight% in an oil phase containing oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA are used. Here, in the oils and fats, water is preferably contained at 0.35 to 18 weight%.

As the water-soluble antioxidant, vitamin C and/or catechin are preferably used. An amount thereof in the aqueous phase is more preferably 10 to 63 weight% and further more preferably 18 to 28 weight%.

As the carbohydrate, sucrose is preferably used, and more preferably, an amount thereof in the aqueous phase is added so that the water-soluble solid content is 67 to 77 weight% in total.

More preferably, the aqueous phase is added so that an amount thereof is 1.5 to 4 weight%. Thus, more preferably, the oils and fats subjected to the antioxidant treatment contain water at 0.4 to 1 weight%.

When such oils and fats are used, it is possible to obtain foods and drinks with more favorable flavor while containing DHA and the like using this premix.

[0015] In the present invention, oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C are used. The melting point is more preferably 15 to 41 °C and further more preferably 20 to 41 °C. When oils and fats having an appropriate melting point are used, it is possible

to obtain foods and drinks with favorable flavor while containing DHA and the like using this premix.

As oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C, one or more selected from among various types of hydrogenated oils, fractionated oils, and transesterified oils can be used according to a processing method. As an oil type, lauric oils and fats are preferably used.

Lauric oils and fats are oils and fats containing lauric acid as a constituent fatty acid at 10 weight% or more. Specifically, coconut oil, palm kernel oil and their fractionated oils, hydrogenated oils, and transesterified oils may be exemplified.

[0016] It is necessary for an amount of oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C in the oil phase to be 25 to 99.5 weight%. The amount is more preferably 30 to 90 weight% and further more preferably 35 to 85 weight%.

In addition, it is necessary for oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C to be contained in an amount of 0.8 times the weight of a total amount of DHA and EPA.

Although an upper limit is not limited, the amount thereof is preferably 500 times the weight or less, and more preferably 400 times the weight or less.

When an appropriate amount of the oils and fats is used, it is possible to obtain foods and drinks with favorable flavor while containing DHA and the like using this premix.

[0017] In the present invention, oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA are mixed with oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C to prepare an oil phase. In this case, of course, oils and fats in a molten state are mixed.

[0018] In the present invention, an aqueous phase of 0.8 to 280 times the weight of an oil phase is used. The amount is more preferably 1 to 200 times the weight and more preferably 4 to 150 times the weight. When an appropriate amount of the aqueous

phase is used, it is possible to obtain foods and drinks with favorable flavor while containing DHA and the like using this premix.

Here, water soluble proteins are preferably dissolved in the aqueous phase. Specific examples of the dissolved water soluble proteins include various animal and
5 vegetable proteins including milk protein and soy protein, and milk protein is more preferable.

More specifically, as the aqueous phase, at least one selected from among milk, raw milk, skimmed milk, defatted concentrated milk, milk whey, and soymilk is preferably used. At least one selected from among milk, raw milk, and defatted
10 concentrated milk is more preferable. Raw milk is further more preferable. In addition, a substance in which skimmed powder milk, whole powder milk, or whey powder is dissolved in water can be used. Here, in the present invention, these are referred to as an “aqueous solvent” in some cases.

When an appropriate aqueous phase is used, it is possible to obtain foods and
15 drinks with favorable flavor while containing DHA and the like using this premix.

[0019] In the present invention, an emulsifier is preferably used. Regarding the emulsifier to be used, as a water-soluble emulsifier, at least one selected from among a polyglycerin fatty acid ester, polysorbate, a sorbitan fatty acid ester, a sucrose fatty acid ester, and a glycerin fatty acid ester can be used, and more preferably, at least one
20 selected from among a polyglycerin fatty acid ester and a sucrose fatty acid ester can be used. Examples of an oil-soluble emulsifier include polyglycerol condensed ricinoleate, a sucrose fatty acid ester, a glycerin fatty acid ester and lecithin, and a sucrose fatty acid ester is more preferable. Here, further more preferably, both the water-soluble emulsifier and the oil-soluble emulsifier are used.

Here, in the present invention, an emulsifier having a Hydrophile-Lipophile Balance (HLB) of 7 or more is defined as a water-soluble emulsifier and an emulsifier having an HLB of less than 7 is defined as an oil-soluble emulsifier.

Regarding an amount of the emulsifier used, an amount of the water-soluble emulsifier in a premix is preferably 0.005 to 3 weight%, and more preferably 0.007 to 2 weight%. An amount of the oil-soluble emulsifier in a premix is preferably 0.1 to 3 weight% and more preferably 0.3 to 2 weight%.

When an appropriate emulsifier is used in an appropriate amount, it is possible to obtain foods and drinks with favorable flavor while containing DHA and the like using this premix.

[0020] The premix produced according to a method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition of the present invention can be used for various foods and drinks. That is, the premix is diluted by a factor of 1 to 100, and thus a food or drink product containing DHA and/or EPA can be produced. Here, 1-fold dilution refers to a case in which the premix itself is eaten as a food or drink product.

Specifically, when the premix is diluted with raw milk, a milk beverage containing DHA and/or EPA is obtained. In addition, when the premix is used as one material of a filling as an emulsion composition, the filling containing DHA and/or EPA can be obtained.

The food or drink product obtained by such a method has a significant improvement regarding an off-flavor derived from DHA and/or EPA compared to a case in which no premix is used.

That is, when the premix according to the present invention is used, an off-flavor derived from DHA and/or EPA can be reduced in a food or drink product

containing DHA and/or EPA, and this premix is referred to as an emulsion composition preparation.

Here, since the premix according to the present invention is an oil-in-water type emulsion composition, it is appropriate to prepare an emulsion composition food or drink product which is white and turbid in principle and is not conspicuously murky.
However, this does not preclude the premix from being used for a food or drink product which is not an emulsion composition.

Examples will be shown below.

Examples

[0021] Study 1 Antioxidant treatment for oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA

In the formulation in Table 1-1, according to “○ Antioxidant treatment method for oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA,” an antioxidant treatment was performed on oils and fats containing a highly unsaturated fatty acid.

[0022] Table 1-1 Formulation

		Test Example 1
Aqueous phase	Vitamin C	0.34
	Catechin	0.21
	Powder sugar	1.17
	Water	0.67
Oil phase	Emulsifier	1.86
	Soybean oil	10.75
	PUFA oil 1	85.00
Sum		100.00

(Unit in formulation is weight%)

· For catechin, “Sunphenon 90S” (commercially available from Taiyo Kagaku Co. Ltd.) was used.

· For an emulsifier, a polyglycerol condensed ricinoleic acid ester “CRS-75” (commercially available from Sakamoto Yakuhin Kogyo Co., Ltd.) was used.

· For powder sugar, granulated powder sugar was used.

· For soybean oil, “soybean white oil” (commercially available from Fuji Oil Co., Ltd.) was used.

5 · For PUFA oil 1, oils and fats containing DHA and EPA at 48.8 weight% in total were used.

· In Test Example 1, an amount of a water-soluble antioxidant in the aqueous phase was 23.0 mass%.

· In Test Example 1, an amount of a water-soluble solid content in the aqueous phase was 72 mass%.

10 · In Test Example 1, an amount of the aqueous phase was 2.39 mass%.

· Hereinafter, oils and fats of Test Example 1 will be referred to as a “stabilized PUFA oil 1.”

[0023] ○ Antioxidant treatment method for oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA

15 1. Components classified into an aqueous phase and components classified into an oil phase were mixed together and dissolved.

2. The aqueous phase and the oil phase were mixed together and substantially emulsified.

3. The emulsion solution of 2 was emulsified using a high pressure homogenizer (37 MPa, 20 passes).

20 [0024] Study 2 Preparation of a premix for preparing an emulsion composition

Based on the formulation in Table 2-1, according to “○ Method of preparing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition,” a premix for preparing an emulsion composition was prepared.

Emulsion stability and flavor of the obtained premix were evaluated according to the method described below. The results are shown in Table 2-2.

[0025] Table 2-1 Formulation of premix for preparing an emulsion composition

	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5	Example 6	Example 7	Example 8	Example 9	Example 10
Aqueous phase	Raw milk	90.23%	90.23%	80.49%	90.85%	90.85%	90.85%	-	-	-
	Fat-free milk	-	-	-	-	-	-	80.49%	-	-
	Skimmed powder milk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.3%	7.2%
	Water	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82.55%	73.29%
	Emulsifier 1	1.17%	1.17%	1.61%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	1.61%	0.75%	1.61%
Oil phase	Emulsifier 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Stabilized PUFA oil	4.3%	4.3%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	6.0%	2.8%	6.0%
	Oils and fats (A)	4.3%	-	5.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Oils and fats 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Oils and fats 2	-	4.3%	-	5.6%	-	-	11.9%	5.6%	11.9%
	Oils and fats 3	-	-	-	-	-	5.6%	-	-	-
	Oils and fats 4	-	-	-	-	5.6%	-	-	-	-
	Oils and fats 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Oils and fats 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Emulsifier 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Emulsifier 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sum	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	Amount of oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C in the oil phase (weight%)	50.00%	50.00%	66.67%	66.67%	66.67%	66.67%	66.48%	66.67%	66.48%
	Aqueous phase/oil phase	10.6	10.6	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	4.6	10.9	4.6
Total amount of DHA and EPA in premix (weight%) (B)		1.78%	1.78%	1.16%	1.16%	1.16%	1.16%	2.49%	1.16%	2.49%
	Oils and fats (A)/(B)	2.4	2.4	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8

	Example 11	Example 12	Example 13	Example 14	Example 15	Example 16	Example 17	Example 18	Comparative Example 1	Example 19
Aqueous phase	Raw milk	99.69%	99.28%	98.47%	96.32%	81.60%	61.73%	45.83%	40.93%	81.60%
	Emulsifier 1	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.08%	0.40%	2.17%	1.17%	1.27%	0.40%
Oil phase	Stabilized PUFA oil 1	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%	1.2%	6.0%	12.0%	26.5%	28.9%	6.0%
	Oils and fats (A)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.0%
	Oils and fats 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Oils and fats 2	0.2%	0.5%	1.0%	2.4%	12.0%	24.1%	26.5%	28.9%	-
	Sum	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Amount of oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C in the oil phase (weight%)		66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	50.0%	50.0%	66.7%
Aqueous phase/oil phase		274.5	137.3	68.2	26.7	4.5	1.8	0.9	0.7	4.5
Total amount of DHA and EPA in premix (weight%) (B)		0.05%	0.10%	0.20%	0.50%	2.50%	5.00%	11.00%	12.00%	2.50%
Oils and fats (A)/(B)		4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	2.4	2.4	4.8

	Example 20	Example 21	Example 22	Comparative Example 2	Comparative Example 3	Example 23	Example 24	Example 25	Example 26	Example 27
Aqueous phase	Raw milk	81.60%	81.60%	81.60%	99.39%	99.28%	98.98%	98.47%	95.50%	89.68%
	Emulsifier 1	0.40%	0.40%	0.40%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.10%	0.22%
Oil phase	Stabilized PUFA oil 1	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
	Oils and fats 2	-	-	-	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%	1.0%	3.9%	9.6%
	Oils and fats 3	12.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Oils and fats 4	-	12.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Oils and fats 5	-	-	12.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total amount of DHA and EPA in premix (weight%)(B)	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.05%	0.10%	0.20%	0.05%	0.10%	0.20%	0.05%	0.20%	5.00%
Oils and fats (A)/(B)	96.4	241.0	289.2	-	-	-	-	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8

Aqueous phase	Raw milk	Example 34	Example 35	Example 36	Example37
	Emulsifier 1	61.01%	61.01%	60.97%	60.97%
	Emulsifier 2	2.17%	2.17%	-	-
Oil phase	Stabilized PUFA oil 1	-	-	2.21%	2.21%
	Oils and fats (A)	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
	Oils and fats 1	-	-	-	-
	Oils and fats 2	24.1%	24.1%	24.1%	24.1%
	Emulsifier 3	0.72%	-	0.72%	-
Sum	Emulsifier 4	-	0.72%	-	0.72%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	Amount of oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C in the oil phase (weight%)	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%
Aqueous phase/oil phase		1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Total amount of DHA and EPA in premix (weight%)(B)		5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Oils and fats (A)/(B)		4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8

(Unit in formulation is weight%)

· For an emulsifier 1, a polyglycerin fatty acid ester “Sunsoft A-181E” (HLB: 13) (commercially available from Taiyo Kagaku Co. Ltd.) was used.

· For an emulsifier 2, a sucrose fatty acid ester “S-1670” (HLB: 16) (commercially available from Mitsubishi-Chemical Foods Corporation) was used.

5 · For an emulsifier 3, a distilled monoglyceride “Rikemal H-100” (HLB: 4.3) (commercially available from Riken Vitamin Co., Ltd.) was used.

· For an emulsifier 4, a sucrose fatty acid ester “S-170” (HLB: 1 or less) (commercially available from Mitsubishi-Chemical Foods Corporation) was used.

10 · For oils and fats 1, a “refined palm kernel oil” (melting point of 27.5 °C) (lauric oils and fats) (commercially available from Fuji Oil Co., Ltd.) was used.

· For oils and fats 2, a refined hardened palm kernel oil (melting point of 38 °C) “Nyumerarin 38” (lauric oils and fats) (commercially available from Fuji Oil Co., Ltd.) was used.

15 · For oils and fats 3, a palm-based transesterified oil “Meranosando 38” (melting point: 38 °C) (non-lauric oils and fats) (commercially available from Fuji Oil Co., Ltd.) was used.

· For oils and fats 4, a palm and rapeseed mixed hardened oil “Melano Fresh 31” (melting point: 31 °C) (non-lauric oils and fats) (commercially available from Fuji Oil Co., Ltd.) was used.

20 · For oils and fats 5, a super palm olein “Palm Ace 10” (melting point: 10 °C) (non-lauric oils and fats) (commercially available from Fuji Oil Co., Ltd.) was used.

· For oils and fats 6, a soybean white oil (melting point: 0 °C or less) (non-lauric oils and fats) (commercially available from Fuji Oil Co., Ltd.) was used.

· In the table, the “aqueous phase/oil phase” shows times the weight of the aqueous phase with respect to the oil phase.

· In the table, the “oils and fats (A)/(B)” shows times the weight of oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C with respect to a total amount of DHA and EPA.

5 [0026] ○ Method of preparing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition 1

1. According to the formulation, raw material classified into an aqueous phase and an oil phase were mixed to prepare an aqueous phase and an oil phase.

2. The oil phase was added to the stirred aqueous phase and mixed.

3. The mixture of 2 was homogenized using a high pressure homogenizer (150
10 kg/cm²).

4. After sterilization, the mixture was cooled to 5 °C.

[0027] ○ Method of evaluating emulsion stability of a premix

1 The prepared premix was left at 3 to 7 °C for 12 hours.

2 After being left, a separation state was checked visually and the results were
15 scored according to the following criteria.

Scoring criteria

5 points: no separation was observed at all.

4 points: very slight separation just enough that the start of separation could be
seen on close inspection was observed.

20 3 points: slight separation was observed.

2 points: it was possible to determine separation at first glance.

1 point: separation was almost complete.

4 points or more was determined to be satisfactory.

[0028] ○ Method of evaluating flavor of premix

1 The prepared premix was left at 3 to 7 °C for 12 hours.

2 Three panelists scored according to the following criteria by consultation.

Scoring criteria

5 points: no off-flavor was perceived at all.

5 4 points: a very slight off-flavor was perceived by one or fewer among three panelists

3 points: two or more among three panelists perceived an off-flavor, but the off-flavor was within an acceptable range

10 2 points: all three panelists perceived an off-flavor and the off-flavor exceeded an acceptable range

1 point: All three panelists perceived an off-flavor and the off-flavor greatly exceeded an acceptable range

3 points or more was determined to be satisfactory.

[0029] Table 2-2 Evaluation results of emulsion stability and flavor

	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5	Example 6	Example 7	Example 8	Example 9	Example 10
Emulsifiability of premix	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Flavor of premix	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	4	4

	Example 11	Example 12	Example 13	Example 14	Example 15	Example 16	Example 17	Example 18	Comparative Example 1	Example 19
Emulsifiability of premix	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	2	5
Flavor of premix	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5

	Example 20	Example 21	Example 22	Comparative Example 2	Comparative Example 3	Example 23	Example 24	Example 25	Example 26	Example 27
Emulsifiability of premix	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Flavor of premix	5	4	3	2	2	3	4	5	5	5

	Example 28	Example 29	Comparative Example 4	Comparative Example 5	Comparative Example 6	Comparative Example 7	Example 30	Example 31	Example 32	Example 33
Emulsifiability of premix	5	4	2	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Flavor of premix	5	5	5	2	2	1	4	3	2	5

	Example 34	Example 35	Example 36	Example 37
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Emulsifiability of premix	5	5	5	5	5
Flavor of premix	5	5	5	5	5

[0030] Consideration

· According to the studies of Examples 8 to 10, and Example 1, it can be clearly understood that various materials were able to be used as the aqueous phase of the premix. In particular, when raw milk was used as the aqueous phase, flavor became
5 more favorable.

· According to the studies of Examples 19 to 22, and Comparative Example 2, it can be clearly understood that various oils and fats were able to be used as “oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C” used for the premix. However, when soybean oil having a melting point of lower than 10 °C was used, no flavor improvement effect was
10 observed (Comparative Example 2). In addition, according to the studies of Comparative Examples 5 to 7, even if oils and fats other than an oil containing DHA and EPA were not used as the oil phase, no flavor improvement effect was observed.

· According to the study of Comparative Example 3, when an amount of oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C was not 0.8 times the weight of a total amount
15 of DHA and EPA or more, no flavor improvement effect of the premix was observed.

· According to the studies of Examples 23 to 29 and Comparative Example 4, it can be clearly understood that, when an amount of the aqueous phase was less than 0.8 times the weight of an amount of the oil phase, emulsification in the premix became unstable.

20 [0031] Study 3 Preparation of beverages

Beverages (milk beverages) were prepared using the premix prepared in Study 2.

The formulations are shown in Table 3-1. The preparation method was performed according to the following “○ Method of preparing beverages.”

The obtained beverages were evaluated according to the following “○ Beverage evaluation method” and the results are shown in Table 3-2.

[0032] Table 3-1 Formulations of beverages

	Comparative Example 8	Comparative Example 9	Example 38	Example 39	Example 40	Example 41	Example 42	Example 43	Example 44	Example 45
Premix of Example 1	-	-	8.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premix of Example 2	-	-	-	8.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premix of Example 3	-	-	-	-	13.3	-	-	-	-	-
Premix of Example 4	-	-	-	-	-	6.2	-	-	-	-
Premix of Example 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.3	-	-	-
Premix of Example 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.3	-	-
Premix of Example 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.3	-
Premix of Example 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.2
Raw milk	99.50	99.10	91.50	91.50	86.70	93.80	86.70	86.70	86.70	-
Fat-free milk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93.8
Stabilized PUFA oil 1	0.4	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oils and fats 1	-	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emulsifier 1	0.10	0.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sum	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Total amount of DHA and EPA in food or drink product	0.17	0.17	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15

(weight%)												
Dilution factor of premix	-	-	11.8	11.8	-	7.5	16.1	7.5	7.5	7.5	16.1	

	Example 46	Example 47	Example 48	Example 49	Example 50	Example 51	Example 52	Example 53	Example 54	Example 55
Premix of Example 9	13.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premix of Example 10	-	6.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premix of Example 12	-	-	50.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premix of Example 13	-	-	-	50.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premix of Example 14	-	-	-	-	20.0	-	-	-	-	-
Premix of Example 15	-	-	-	-	-	20.0	-	-	-	-
Premix of Example 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.0	-	-	-
Premix of Example 17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30.0	-	50.0
Premix of Example 18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30.0	-
Raw milk	-	-	50.0	50.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	70.0	70.0	50.0
Skimmed powder milk	7.8	8.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water	78.9	85.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sum	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Total amount of DHA and EPA in food	0.15	0.15	0.05	0.10	0.10	0.50	1.00	3.00	3.30	6.00

[0033] ○ Method of preparing beverages

“Comparative Examples 2 and 3”

1. According to the formulation, raw milk, fat-free milk or water was heated to 50 to 55 °C, and the emulsifier 1, and skimmed powder milk were dissolved.

5 2. According to the formulation, a premix, a stabilized PUFA oil 1, and heated and melted oils and fats 1 were added to 1.

3. The mixture was pre-emulsified at 50 to 55 °C for 15 minutes using a mixer.

4. The mixture was homogenized using a high pressure homogenizer (150 kg/cm²).

10 5. After sterilization, the mixture was cooled to 5 °C.

[0034] ○ Beverage evaluation method

Three panelists evaluated samples stored in a refrigerator for 1 day after preparation according to the following criteria. Scoring was performed by consultation.

15 5 points: no difference from commercially available milk or a milk beverage was perceived

4 points: although slight flavor of a DHA oil was perceived, there was almost no difference

3 points: although the presence of a DHA oil was perceived, it was within an acceptable range

20 2 points: the presence of a DHA oil was caused a feeling of discomfort

1 point: strong flavor of a DHA oil was perceived and was unpleasant

3 points or more was determined to be satisfactory.

[0035] Table 3-2

	Comparative Example 8	Comparative Example 9	Example 38	Example 39	Example 40	Example 41	Example 42	Example 43	Example 44	Example 45
Flavor evaluation	2	2	4	5	5	3	5	5	5	5

	Example 46	Example 47	Example 48	Example 49	Example 50	Example 51	Example 52	Example 53	Example 54	Example 55
Flavor evaluation	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	4	5	5

	Example 56	Example 57	Example 58	Example 59	Example 60
Flavor evaluation	5	5	5	5	5

[0036] Consideration

· Even when the “stabilized PUFA oil” subjected to an antioxidant treatment was used, when it was used for beverage without preparing a premix, a certain degree of discomfort was perceived. However, when the premix was prepared and beverage was
5 then made, such discomfort was not perceived at all and beverage with favorable flavor was obtained.

· Example 58 had particularly favorable flavor.

[CLAIMS]

1. A premix for preparing an emulsion composition which satisfies the following requirements:

- 1 oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA being included in an oil phase;
- 5 2 oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C being included in the oil phase at 25 to 99.5 weight%, where the oils and fats amount to 0.8 times the weight of a total amount of DHA and EPA or more;
- 3 an aqueous phase being 0.8 to 280 times the weight of the oil phase; and
- 4 the oil phase and the aqueous phase constituting an oil-in-water type
- 10 emulsified oil and fat composition.

2. The premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C of claim 1 are lauric oils and fats.

3. The premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein water soluble proteins are dissolved in the aqueous phase.

4. The premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to claim 2, wherein water soluble proteins are dissolved in the aqueous phase.

5. The premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to claim 4, further comprising a water-soluble emulsifier and/or an oil-soluble emulsifier.

6. The premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA in which an aqueous phase in which a water-soluble antioxidant is contained in the aqueous phase at 2.5 to 65 weight%, and additionally a carbohydrate is added so that a water-soluble solid content in the aqueous phase is 18 to 79 weight% in total is dispersed in an oil phase at 1 to 38 weight% are used.

7. A method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition comprising the following processes:

- 1 a process of preparing an oil phase comprising oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA and oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C at 25 to 99.5 weight%, where the oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C are contained in an amount of 0.8 times the weight of a total amount of DHA and EPA or more;
- 2 a process of preparing an aqueous phase having an amount 0.8 to 280 times the weight of the oil phase; and
- 3 a process of mixing the oil phase and the aqueous phase to obtain an oil-in-water type emulsified oil and fat composition.

8. The method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to claim 7, wherein the oils and fats having a melting point of 10 to 42 °C are lauric oils and fats.

9. The method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to claim 7, wherein water soluble proteins are dissolved in the aqueous phase.

10. The method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to claim 8, wherein water soluble proteins are dissolved in the aqueous phase.

11. The method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to claim 7, further comprising a process of incorporating a water-soluble emulsifier and/or an oil-soluble emulsifier.

12. The method of producing a premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein oils and fats containing DHA and/or EPA in which an aqueous phase in which a water-soluble antioxidant is contained in the aqueous phase at 2.5 to 65 weight%, and additionally a carbohydrate is added so that a water-soluble solid content in the aqueous phase is 18 to 79 weight% in total is dispersed in an oil phase at 1 to 38 weight% are used.

13. A method of producing a food or drink product containing DHA and/or EPA comprising diluting the premix for preparing an emulsion composition according to claim 6 by a factor of 1 to 100 by weight.

14. A method of reducing an off-flavor derived from DHA and/or EPA in a food or drink product containing DHA and/or EPA using the premix according to claim 6.