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(54) Title: COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR STABILIZING AND MAINTAINING THE VIABILITY OF HARDY MICROORGANISMS

(57) Abstract: The present application is to provide a composition and method for stabilizing and maintaining the viability of hardy microorganisms from sample collection to downstream analysis. In particular, there is a method for preserving viable hardy bacteria, such as Mycobacteria, Bacillus anthracis, or Clostridium difficile, in a biological sample, comprising contacting the biological sample with a stabilization composition, wherein the stabilization composition comprises a chelating agent, a denaturing, a salt and has a p H between about 6 and about 11.

