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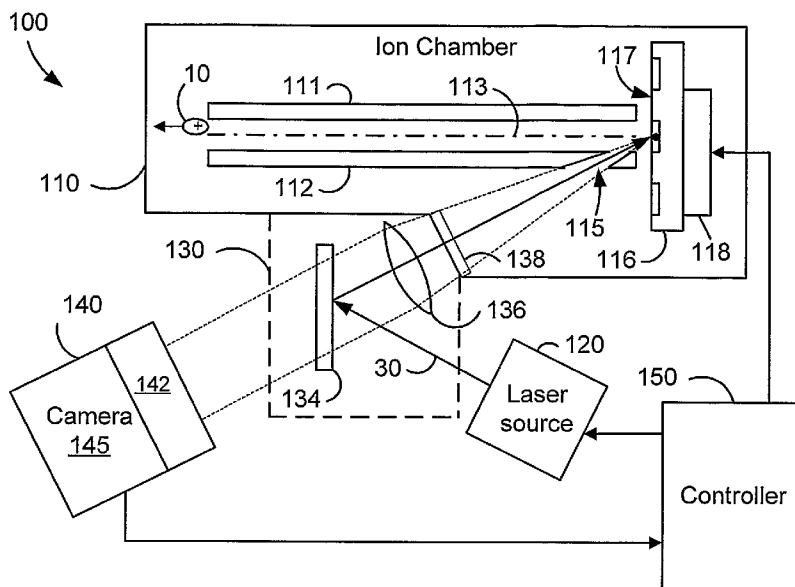
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(54) Title: ROD ASSEMBLY IN ION SOURCE



(57) **Abstract:** Ion source assemblies for generating ions for laser desorption mass spectrometry. An ion source assembly includes a target for receiving analyte samples and a plurality of rods. The rods define an interior volume having an axis extending away from a surface of the target for transporting ions. One or more of the rods include an aperture defining an opening through a cross-section of the rod. The aperture is configured such that a laser beam can pass through the aperture to irradiate a location on the target surface to generate ions from an analyte sample deposited at the location.

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