CLAIMS

~~1. (Cancelled)~~

~~2~~1. ~~(Amended)~~ A flat ceramic membrane comprising:

a plate-shaped porous support made of ceramics; and

a filtration membrane formed on an outer surface of the porous support, wherein

inside the porous support, a plurality of water collection passages where filtrate water obtained by permeation of water-to-be-treated through the filtration membrane flows are formed, and a region where a distance between the water collection passages is different is ensured, and

a distance between the water collection passages, which are along a supply direction of air for membrane cleaning, in a region that is located in a vicinity of an end portion is greater than a distance between the water collection passages in a region that is a region other than the vicinity of the end portion.

~~3~~2. The flat ceramic membrane as claimed in claim ~~2~~1, wherein

a distance between the water collection passages, which are along the supply direction, at a middle portion is greater than the other distance between the water collection passages in the region other than the vicinity of the end portion.

~~4~~3. The flat ceramic membrane as claimed in claim ~~2~~1 or ~~3~~2, wherein

a cross section of the water collection passage in the region located in the vicinity of the end portion is smaller than a cross section of the water collection passage in the region other than the vicinity of the end portion.

~~5~~4. ~~(Amended)~~ The flat ceramic membrane as claimed in any one of the preceding claims ~~2~~1 to ~~4~~3, wherein

a drain portion for draining the filtrate water supplied from one end openings of the water collection passages is fixed to one end portion of the porous support.