WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A pharmaceutically active composition for application to nails and surrounding tissue, comprising:

an effective amount of a pharmacologically active antifungal component; and

a carrier, said carrier comprising:

from greater than 0 to about 40% by weight of dimethyl isosorbide;

from about 1 to about 40% by weight of undecylenic acid;

from greater than 0 to about 30% by weight of a carboxylic acid component other than undecylenic acid;

from about 2 to about 55% by weight of a monohydric alcohol having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms; and

from greater than 0 to about 25% by weight of a urea based component, said antifungal component being uniformly dispersible in said carrier.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition comprises:

from greater than 0 to about 15% by weight of said antifungal component.

from about 1 to about 20% by weight of said dimethyl isosorbide;

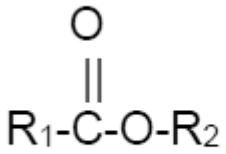
from about 5 to about 35% by weight of said undecylenic acid;

from about 0.5 to about 20% by weight of said carboxylic acid component other than undecylenic acid;

from about 10 to about 30% by weight of said monohydric alcohol having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms; and

from about 1 to about 15% by weight of said urea based component.

3. The composition of claim 1, further comprising from about 2 to about 10% by weight of a carboxylic acid ester having the formula:

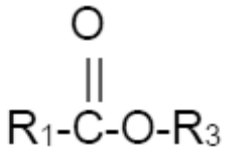


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wherein R_1 comprises 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and R_2 comprises 2 to 4 carbon atoms.

4. The composition of claim 1, further comprising:

from about 2 to about 10% by weight of a fatty acid ester having the formula



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wherein R_1 comprises 1 to 3 carbon atoms, R_3 comprises 10 to 22 carbon atoms.

5. The composition of claim 1, wherein said urea-based component comprises urea.

6. The composition of claim 1, wherein said monohydric alcohol comprises isopropyl alcohol.

7. The composition of claim 1, wherein said carboxylic acid component is selected from the group consisting of formic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, valeric acid, caproic acid, capyric acid, capric acid, sorbic acid, oxalic acid, hydroxybutyric acid, hydroxypropionic acids, lactic acid, glycolic acid, citric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, malonic acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid, apidic acid, pimelic acid, oxalacetic acid, phthalic acid, tartronic acid, pyruvic acid, and mixtures thereof.

8. The composition of claim 7, wherein said carboxylic acid comprises lactic acid.

9. The composition of claim 4, wherein said fatty acid ester comprises isopropyl myristate in an amount of from about 2 to about 10% by weight.

10. The composition of claim 1, further comprising from about 4 to about 10% by weight of a diol containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms.

11. A carrier for use in topical application of dermatologically active ingredients, comprising:

from greater than 0 to about 40% by weight of dimethyl isosorbide;

from about 1 to about 40% by weight of undecylenic acid;

from greater than 0 to about 30% by weight of a carboxylic acid component other than undecylenic acid;

from about 2 to about 55% by weight of a monohydric alcohol having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms; and

from greater than 0 to about 25% by weight of a urea based component.

12. The carrier of claim 11, comprising:

from about 1 to about 15% by weight of said dimethyl isosorbide;

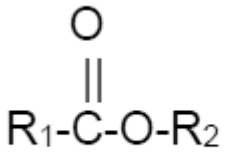
from about 5 to about 25% by weight of said undecylenic acid;

from about 0.5 to about 10% by weight of said carboxylic acid component other than undecylenic acid;

from about 10 to about 30% by weight of said monohydric alcohol having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms; and

from about 1 to about 15% by weight of said urea based component.

13. The composition of claim 11, further comprising from about 2 to about 10% by weight of a carboxylic acid ester having the formula:

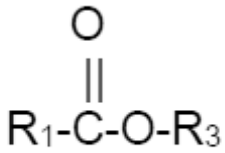


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wherein R_1 comprises 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and R_2 comprises 2 to 4 carbon atoms.

14. The composition of claim 11, further comprising:

from about 2 to about 10% by weight of a fatty acid ester having the formula



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wherein R_1 comprises 1 to 3 carbon atoms, R_3 comprises 10 to 22 carbon atoms.

15. The composition of claim 11, wherein said urea-based component comprises urea.

16. The composition of claim 11, wherein said monohydric alcohol comprises isopropyl alcohol.

17. The composition of claim 11, wherein said carboxylic acid component is selected from the group consisting of formic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, valeric acid, caproic acid, capyric acid, capric acid, sorbic acid, oxalic acid, hydroxybutyric acid, hydroxypropionic acids, lactic acid, glycolic acid, citric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, malonic acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid, apidic acid, pimelic acid, oxalacetic acid, phthalic acid, tartronic acid, pyruvic acid, and mixtures thereof.

18. The composition of claim 17, wherein said carboxylic acid comprises lactic acid.

19. The composition of claim 14, wherein said fatty acid ester comprises isopropyl myristate in an amount of from about 2 to about 10% by weight.

20. The composition of claim 11, further comprising from about 4 to about 10% by weight of a diol containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms.