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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREPARING A BOTANICAL EXTRACT

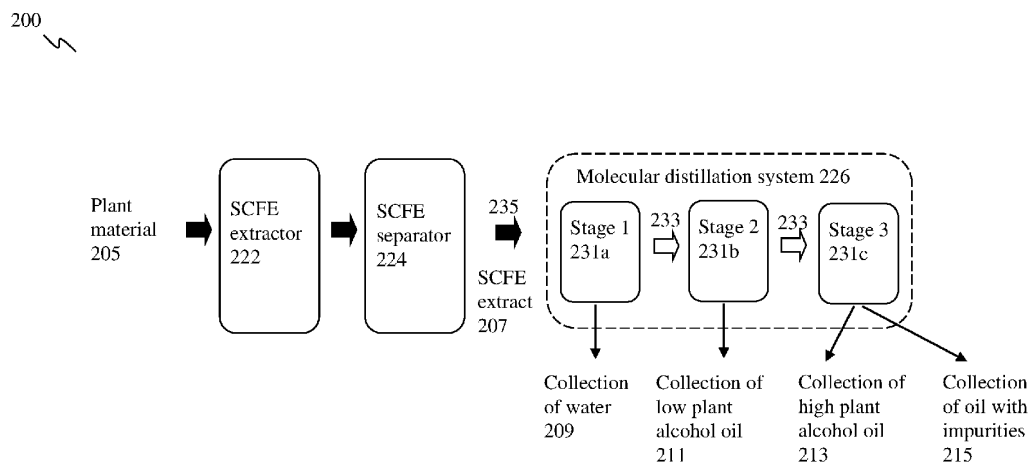


FIG. 2

(57) Abstract: According to embodiments of the present invention, a method for preparing a botanical extract is provided. The method includes subjecting a botanical material to an extract pressure under influence of liquid carbon dioxide to perform a supercritical carbon dioxide extraction process to obtain an extraction mixture; separating an intermediate extract from the extraction mixture; and substantially immediately following the step of separating, feeding the intermediate extract to a series of stages to perform molecular distillation to obtain the botanical extract with an improved level of one or more parameters as compared to the intermediate extract. The one or more parameters includes at least one of density, acid value, refractive index, appearance, or miscibility. Each stage is set to a predetermined distillation temperature, a predetermined vacuum pressure and a predetermined rotation speed. In one embodiment, the botanical extract is an essential oil from a plant. According to further embodiments of the present invention, an apparatus for preparing

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a botanical extract is also provided.