suitable for use in warm weather. It is also used in disposable hygiene products due to its high moisture absorbency which is greater than that of cotton.

[0007] Similarly, efforts to explore the possibility of using dissolving pulp produced from other wood species have been minimal.

[0008] Hence, there is a need to provide an alternative dissolving pulp, methods of preparing the same, and methods of using the dissolving pulp for preparing novel viscose fibers.

Summary

[0009] In a first aspect, there is provided a dissolving pulp comprising cellulosic material, wherein the cellulosic material consists of Acacia crassicarpa cellulosic material. Advantageously, unlike other taxonomically close species, e.g., Acacia mangium, Acacia crassicarpa has been surprisingly found to comprise relatively low amounts of lipophilic content or lipophilic extractives, which makes it suited for use in preparing a dissolving pulp which meets stringent industrial requirements.

[0010] In an embodiment, there is provided a cellulosic composition comprising pulp of Acacia crassicarpa, characterized in that the Acacia crassicarpa pulp is at least 50 wt% by solids content of said composition.

[0011] In another ~~aspect~~embodiment, there is provided a composition comprising wood chips, and at least one hydrolysing medium, wherein said at least one hydrolysing medium is pressurized steam, and wherein said wood chips consist of Acacia crassicarpa.

[0012] In another ~~aspect~~embodiment, there is provided the use of the composition for preparing a dissolving pulp.

[0013] In another aspect, there is provided a method of preparing dissolving pulp, the method comprising: (a) hydrolysing a composition comprising cellulosic or a lignocellulosic material consisting of Acacia crassicarpa to thereby form a treated cellulosic or lignocellulosic composition; (b) heating the treated composition under conditions to produce said dissolving pulp.

[0014] In another aspect, there is provided a method of producing regenerated cellulose fibres, the method comprising: (a) base treatment of a dissolving pulp of Acacia crassicarpa to produce cellulose xanthate; (b) neutralizing said cellulose xanthate to produce said regenerated cellulose fibres.

[0015] In another aspect, there is provided regenerated cellulose fibre comprising cellulosic material, the cellulosic material consisting of Acacia crassicarpa and being characterized by a lipophilic content of between 0 to 0.20 wt%.

[0016] In another aspect, there is provided a textile comprising regenerated cellulose fibre as disclosed herein.

Claims

1. A dissolving pulp comprising cellulosic material, wherein the cellulosic material consists of Acacia crassicarpa cellulosic material.

2. The dissolving pulp of claim 1, characterized by a lipophilic content of less than 0.25 wt%.

3. The dissolving pulp of claim 1 or 2, characterized by a lipophilic content of between 0 to 0.20 wt%.

4. The dissolving pulp of any one of claims 1-3, characterized by an alpha-cellulose content of at least between 90 to 99 wt%.

5. The dissolving pulp of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the amount of pentosan is between 2.0 wt% and 3.0 wt%.

6. The dissolving pulp of any one of claims 1-5, characterized in that Acacia crassicarpa ~~pulp~~ cellulosic material is at least 50 wt% by solids content of said dissolving pulp.

7. The dissolving pulp of any one of claims 1-6, characterized in that said dissolving pulp is substantially free of lignin.

8. The dissolving pulp of any one of claims 1-6, further comprising a liquor mixture, said liquor mixture comprising lignin, carbohydrates, hemicellulose and inorganic salts.

~~9. A composition comprising wood chips, and at least one hydrolysing medium, wherein said at least one hydrolysing medium is pressurized steam, and wherein said wood chips consist of Acacia crassicarpa.~~

~~10. The composition of claim 9, wherein said wood chips are selected from the group consisting of: bark, stem, root, and mixtures thereof.~~

~~11. Use of the composition of any one of claims 9-10 for preparing a dissolving pulp.~~

~~12.~~9. A method of preparing dissolving pulp, the method comprising: (a) hydrolysing a composition comprising cellulosic or a lignocellulosic material consisting of Acacia crassicarpa to thereby form a treated cellulosic or

lignocellulosic composition; (b) heating the treated composition under alkaline conditions to produce said dissolving pulp.

~~13.~~10. The method of claim ~~12~~9, wherein said hydrolysing step comprises a step of treating said cellulosic or lignocellulosic material consisting of Acacia crassicarpa with steam.

~~14.~~11. The method of claim ~~13~~10, wherein said hydrolysing step is conducted until the pH of a hydrolysate is less than or equal to 3.

~~15.~~12. The method of any one of claims ~~12~~9-~~14~~11, wherein said heating step comprises heating said treated composition in the presence of an alkaline solution.

~~16.~~13. The method of claim ~~15~~12, wherein said alkaline solution comprises a mixture of NaOH and Na_2S.

~~17.~~14. A method of producing regenerated cellulose fibres, the method comprising: (a) base treatment of a dissolving pulp of Acacia crassicarpa to produce cellulose xanthate; (b) neutralizing said cellulose xanthate to produce said regenerated cellulose fibres.

~~18.~~15. The method of claim ~~17~~14, wherein said base treatment comprises treating the dissolving pulp with aqueous sodium hydroxide; ageing the treated dissolving pulp; and reacting the aged dissolving pulp with carbon disulfide to form said cellulose xanthate.

~~19.~~16. The method of claim ~~17~~14 or ~~18~~15, wherein said neutralizing step comprises subjecting the cellulose xanthate to a wet spinning process in a sulfuric acid bath to thereby produce said regenerated cellulose fibres.

~~20.~~17. The method of any one of claims ~~17~~14-~~19~~16, further comprising providing a dissolving pulp of Acacia crassicarpa characterized by a lipophilic content of less than 0.25 wt%.

~~21.~~18. Regenerated cellulose fibre comprising cellulosic material, the cellulosic material consisting of Acacia crassicarpa and being characterized by a lipophilic content of between 0 to 0.20 wt%.

~~22.~~19. A textile comprising regenerated cellulose fibre of claim ~~21~~18.