

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
8 March 2007 (08.03.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/026362 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
C07H 5/04 (2006.01) **C08B 37/10** (2006.01)
C08B 37/08 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IL2006/001009

(22) International Filing Date: 30 August 2006 (30.08.2006)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/713,390 2 September 2005 (02.09.2005) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
22 November 2007

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: CROSS-LINKED POLYSACCHARIDE AND PROTEIN MATRICES AND METHODS FOR THEIR PREPARATION

(57) Abstract: Methods for preparing cross-linked polysaccharide matrices by cross-linking one or more amino group containing polysaccharides or amino-functionalized polysaccharides with reducing sugars and/or reducing sugar derivatives. The resulting matrices may include polysaccharide matrices and composite cross-linked matrices including polysaccharides cross-linked with proteins and/or polypeptides. Additives and/or cells may also be included in or embedded within the matrices. Various different solvent systems and reducing sugar cross-linkers for performing the cross-linking are described. The resulting matrices exhibit various different physical, chemical and biological properties.



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