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(54) Title: SPRAY-DRIED COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS OF PREPARATION

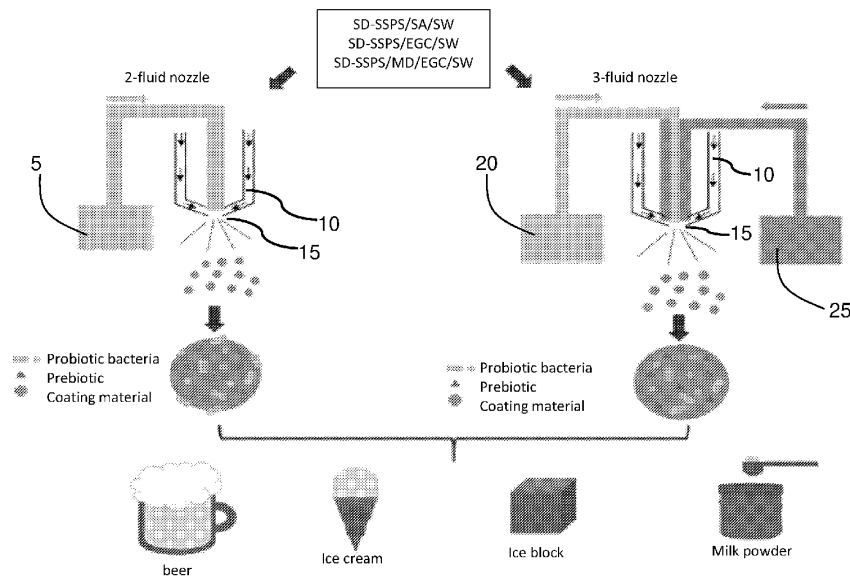


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** Spray-dried Compositions and Methods of Preparation Spray-dried compositions that may be used in food products, the methods of preparing the compositions and food products containing the compositions are described. The spray-dried composition contains 5 to 50 weight percent (wt. %) of a prebiotic, 10 to 65 wt.% of a probiotic, and 30 to 80 wt. % of a coating material. The prebiotic may be a polysaccharide, an oligosaccharide, a polyol, whey protein, and any combinations thereof. The probiotic may be Lactocaseibacillus, Lactobacillus, Lactiplantibacillus, Levilactobacillus, Ligilactobacillus, Limosilactobacillus, Bifidobacterium, Enterococcus, Streptococcus, Pediococcus, Leuconostoc, Bacillus, Escherichia, Saccharomyces, and any combinations thereof. The coating material may be a synthetic polymer, a natural polymer, and any combinations thereof. The spray-dried compositions are prepared by providing at least one solution containing the composition components and spray drying the at least one solution.

[Continued on next page]

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