treatment. Similarly, analogous conditions such as cuts and bruising, painful stings from plants, ants and sea creatures etc. and other damaging injury may need to be treated in the same manner.

[0011] There are many currently utilized therapeutic compositions containing natural and/or petrochemical products as well as a wide array of synthetic and semi synthetic excipients such as polyethylene glycols, polyacrylamides, copolymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide or polyethoxylated castor oils and the like. Many of these compositions are high in oil content and often greasy to the touch. Sufferers may report allergic reactions to some of the semi and fully synthetic excipients and/or the non natural preservatives utilised in these compositions, such as parabens and phenoxyethanol. These compositions are highly mobile and will spread from where they are applied to the surrounding unaffected areas, resulting in less composition remaining on the affected areas. In the case of nappy rash, for example, they potentially also transfer damaging faeces, urine and other irritants to these previously unaffected skin areas. These high oil compositions can also remain on the surface of the skin for an extended period of time and can be transferred easily to garments and clothes which is undesirable both due to the damage to the clothing and because of the removal of the barrier effect. In other instances, hydrogels made from polyurethanes, polyesters, or nylon polymer mixtures are utilised and they similarly have a problem with spreading.

[0012] There is a need for new approaches to solve one or more of the problems recited above.

SUMMARY

[0013] The present invention is directed to emollient compositions that are useful for treating and/or preventing skin conditions and/or symptoms thereof. It is predicated, at least in part on the finding that an emollient composition comprising emu oil, jojoba oil, a metal or metalloid oxide, hydroxide or carbonate and a dermatological base can be applied to damaged areas of the skin to prevent harmful substance and microorganisms penetrating those areas and to prevent further damage being incurred from contact with bodily wastes such as faeces from nappies, pus from bed sore, old blood and the like. The compositions are also

suitable for purely preventative use on undamaged skin or skin which is at risk of developing damage.

[0014] Without wishing to be bound by any particular theory, it has been found that the use of lanolin and white paraffin create a matrix barrier which prevents the ingress of harmful substances and prevents the egress of moisture while also holding the metal or metalloid oxide, hydroxide or carbonate close to the skin along with the efficacious emu oil and jojoba oil which are allowed to pass through the matrix and penetrate the outer dermis to maintain suppleness of the skin while reducing infection, irritation, inflammation, swelling, itching and the like. The metal or metalloid oxide, hydroxide or carbonate provides pH buffering while imparting desirable physical characteristics to the composition. The composition has a number of advantageous physical properties in that it does not present with a greasy or oily feel; it stays on the skin and does not rub off onto clothing easily; it has a good degree of workability in the hands; and it can be formulated at room temperature i.e. heating during the blending process is not required.

[0015] In one example, there is described an emollient composition comprising emu oil, jojoba oil and a dermatological base.

[0016] In one aspect, the present invention refers to An emollient composition comprising in % by weight amounts of the composition: (a) about 2.5% to about 15% emu oil; (b) about 4% to about 25% jojoba oil; (c) about 25% to about 75% of a dermatological base; and (d) about 10% to about 40% of a metal or metalloid oxide, hydroxide or carbonate. In one example, there is disclosed a composition comprising in % by weight amounts of the composition:

(a) about 2.5% to about 15% emu oil;

(b) about 4% to about 25% jojoba oil;

(c) about 25% to about 75% of a dermatological base; and

(d) about 10% to about 40% of a metal or metalloid oxide, hydroxide or carbonate.

[0017] In another example, there is disclosed a method of treating and/or preventing a skin condition in a subject, the method including the step of administering to the skin of the subject a therapeutically effective amount of an emollient composition comprising, in % by weight amounts of the composition,:

(a) about 2.5% to about 15% emu oil;

(b) about 4% to about 25% jojoba oil;

(c) about 25% to about 75% of a dermatological base; and

(d) about 10% to about 40% of a metal or metalloid oxide, hydroxide or carbonate.

[0018] In another aspect, the present invention refers to a method of formulating an emollient composition including the step of combining and mixing emu oil, jojoba oil, a dermatological base and a metal or metalloid oxide, hydroxide or carbonate to form the emollient composition in the following % by weight amounts of the composition:

(a) about 2.5% to about 15% emu oil;

(b) about 4% to about 25% jojoba oil;

(c) about 25% to about 75% dermatological base; and

(d) about 10% to about 40% metal or metalloid oxide, hydroxide or carbonate.

[0019] In a further aspect, the present invention refers to the use of an emollient composition comprising, in % by weight amounts of the composition,:

(a) about 2.5% to about 15% emu oil;

(b) about 4% to about 25% jojoba oil;

(c) about 25% to about 75% of a dermatological base; and

(d) about 10% to about 40% of a metal or metalloid oxide, hydroxide or carbonate,

in the preparation of a medicament for use in the treatment and/or prevention of a skin condition in a subject.

[0020] The medicament is as described herein for the emollient composition as disclosed herein.

[0021] The emollient composition is therefore a cream for topical administration.

[0022] The various features and embodiments of the present invention, referred to in individual sections above apply, as appropriate, to other sections, *mutatis mutandis*. Consequently features specified in one section may be combined with features specified in other sections as appropriate.

[0023] Further features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description.