Unfermented Gel Fraction From Psyllium Seed Husks

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The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) is seeking commercial partners interested in developing a method of isolating the therapeutic components of psyllium seed husks to provide the same laxative and cholesterol-lowering effects of intact seed husks, but in a form that is easily administrable.

OVERVIEW

The seed husks of psyllium (Plantago ovata) are commonly used to promote regular bowel function, and have also been used to lower cholesterol. However, ground seed husks are unpalatable in drinks or baked goods, making it difficult to ingest the recommended daily dose of 3.5 to 11 grams. More significantly, psyllium seed husk can swell in the esophagus, producing an esophageal obstruction that can cause choking.

THE INVENTION

UW-Madison researchers have developed a method for isolating and purifying the gel-forming component of psyllium seed husks. This provides the same laxative and cholesterol-lowering effects of intact psyllium seed husks, but in a form that is easily administrable as a tablet, capsule or liquid. The method of fractionating psyllium seed husks relies on chemical isolation and physical separation (centrifugation) of the desired compound.

APPLICATIONS

• Laxation
• Cholesterol reduction

KEY BENEFITS

• Enables safer administration of therapeutic components of psyllium seed husks
• Eliminates the unpleasant texture of ground seed husk in food and beverage infusions
• Effective dose size is much smaller than raw psyllium seed husk
• Provides the same therapeutic effects of laxation and cholesterol reduction as ground psyllium seed husks

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tech Fields
Food & Supplements - Nutraceuticals

CONTACT INFORMATION

For current licensing status, please contact Emily Bauer at emily@warf.org or 608-960-9842.